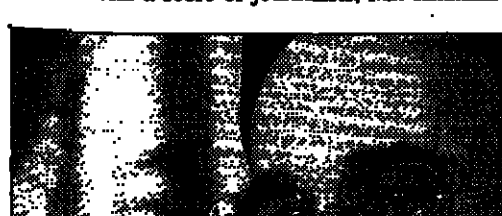


Iran Denies 'Opening' to U.S.

Cultural Initiative Was Misunderstood, Khatami Says

By Elaine Sciolino
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — President Mohammed Khatami of Iran said Tuesday that Tehran had no intention of opening a political dialogue with the United States until Washington took concrete steps to change its policies toward his country.



President Mohammed Khatami fielding reporters' questions at a news conference Tuesday in New York.

In a hastily arranged breakfast and news conference with a score of journalists, Mr. Khatami said when asked what specific steps the United States had to take before a political dialogue could begin. "But it seems there is a lot of confusion."

In January, Mr. Khatami, in an interview with CNN, announced the launching of cultural exchanges as a way to break down what he called the "wall of mistrust" between the two countries. Since then, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has reiterated the American call for a formal dialogue as a way to create a "road map" for normalization between the two countries.

Mr. Khatami also said that Iran was trying to avoid a military confrontation with the Taliban in Afghanistan. Asked whether his country was ready to invade, he said, "Iran is ready to defend its security and territorial integrity." He added, however, that "we are making all efforts so that, God willing, there will not be a war."

Mr. Khatami also made his first statement as president on the fate of the novelist Salman Rushdie, who was condemned to death in a religious decree by the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini shortly before the Iranian supreme leader's death in 1989.

The ruling has never been revoked, although the official position of the Iranian government is that it has no intention of carrying out the decree.

Asked why the ruling had never been revoked, Mr. Khatami made clear that Iran wants to put the matter behind it. "We should consider the Salman Rushdie issue as completely finished," he said.

He noted that Ayatollah Khomeini "as an Islamic jurist gave us his opinion about this matter and many other religious leaders have told us about their opinions in this respect and what they think" and added, "The Iranian government has officially announced that in practice it has made no decision to act on its matter."

President Bill Clinton listening to a panel discussion at New York University's law school.

See IRAN, Page 8

Poll Backs Clinton, But Foes Are Firm

Republicans Press House Inquiry

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The White House took heart on Tuesday from early signs that public support for President Bill Clinton edged upward after the telecast of his grand jury testimony, but Republicans gave no sign that they would slow their march toward an impeachment inquiry.

Asked about poll results — taken after the Clinton videotape appeared on the nation's television screens — that again showed strong job approval ratings for Mr. Clinton, Michael McCurry, the president's spokesman, said that White House aides were working with members of Congress to try to craft a "constructive solution" to the crisis.

But Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee, which is weighing the allegations against Mr.

Clinton, indicated that they were likely to move ahead.

Asked about prospects of an impeachment inquiry, Representative Charles Canady of Florida, for example, said, "There is a lot that points in the direction of the need for such an inquiry."

"There's a picture here of evasion, and that's very troubling," he said.

Starr report said to exclude pro-Clinton testimony, Page 3.

Even some Democrats known as Clinton supporters are bracing for impeachment hearings.

Senator Robert Torricelli of New Jersey said he was absorbing details of the case in the expectation that the full

See CLINTON, Page 5

Reviews Come In on Tape Testimony

Smoking Gun or Popgun?
Viewers Saw What They Wanted

By R. W. Apple Jr.
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's belatedly televised grand jury testimony — breathlessly advertised as explosive in its content, but much less so in reality — is unlikely to change many minds.

Instead, people are likely to find reinforcement in it for their previously formed viewpoints. Members of Congress began doing precisely that as soon as the testimony, which was taped on Aug. 17, had been broadcast; some who watched swore they had seen a smoking gun, while others saw only a popgun.

Those who have felt that Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, was unfairly hounding the president, or that the whole case was built upon an unfair intrusion into his private life, will doubtless find ample support in the dogged pursuit of the president by questioners seemingly determined to find inconsistencies in his account, and by their concentration on Mr. Clinton's sexual relationships to the exclusion of other matters the grand jury has investigated, including Whitewater land deals.

On the other hand, those especially condemnatory of Mr. Clinton's sexual behavior, those who see him as a man who habitually resorts to weasel words when cornered or those who believe he has committed perjury, will find evidence to buttress their cases. Some things he said appeared to conflict directly with the testimony of other witnesses questioned by the grand jury, including not only Monica Lewinsky but White House aides and security officers.

Still, one thing is beyond debate, and that could produce political benefits for the president: Despite expectations to the contrary, in large part raised by the news media, the testimony contained few explicit sexual terms, and none that had not already been used in the Starr report to Congress.

The four hours of testimony constituted a performance radically different from the four-minute speech to the nation Mr. Clinton made later that same day.

In the speech, Mr. Clinton's apologies sounded forced, he spent

See INQUIRY, Page 5

The Ultimate Survivor
May Have Caught a Break

By David Maraniss
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — It has happened time and again throughout Bill Clinton's political career: Just when he appears most vulnerable, an unexpected bit of luck yanks him back from the brink.

The release of the videotape of his Aug. 17 grand jury testimony may someday be remembered as the unluckiest and most ironic of his lifetime of lucky breaks, a potentially damaging event that helped more than hurt, a result in large measure of misplaced expectations that the tape would do him in.

There were, to be sure, palpably uncomfortable moments for Mr. Clinton during the four-hour grilling, and several exchanges where his wordplay seemed exceedingly cute or intentionally misleading, yet there appeared to be no single frame that will be burned forever in public memory.

Mr. Clinton, the ultimate survivor, somehow finished the ordeal laughing, a smile on his face, as though he realized at that moment that once again, following the early repetitive cycles of his life, his opponents might have overplayed their hand.

Though on a smaller scale and with less grave consequences, the closest ancestor to the grand jury videotape in Mr. Clinton's ceaselessly melodramatic political biography was the release of what came to be known as "the draft letter" during the early stages of the 1992 presidential campaign.

In February of that year, when Mr. Clinton's candidacy was already reeling from allegations of sexual infidelity and draft-dodging, his enemies discovered and made public a letter that he had written back in 1969 in which he had thanked an ROTC colonel at the University of Arkansas for "saving" him from the draft and allowing him to maintain his "political viability."

Conventional wisdom at the time held that the letter was a grievous embarrassment that might force the governor of Arkansas to drop out of the race. But Mr. Clinton's enemies, as it turned out, had utterly miscalculated how the letter would be interpreted by the public.

While a paragraph-by-paragraph examination of the letter would

See TAPE, Page 5

Mahathir Assails Former Deputy

He Calls Anwar a 'Sodomist' Unfit to Govern Nation

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia on Tuesday spelled out in graphic detail the allegations of sexual misconduct that led him to dismiss Anwar Ibrahim, the country's former finance minister and deputy prime minister.

"I cannot accept a man who is a sodomist to become the leader of this country," Mr. Mahathir said at a press conference.

Mr. Anwar, who was the prime minister's anointed successor until his dismissal last month, was taken into custody Sunday and charged Monday under the country's Internal Security Act.

Mr. Mahathir also said Tuesday, in his first interview since the dismissal of Mr. Anwar, that his government would have no trouble dealing with any future unrest and that he did not expect a further crackdown on dissent. Q&A, Page 8.

Mr. Mahathir, 72, faced the largest demonstrations in his 17-year-old rule on Sunday and Monday, protests led by supporters of Mr. Anwar. Demonstrators on Monday clashed with the police in Kuala Lumpur, where more than 100 people were arrested.

The Internal Security Act allows indefinite de-

tention without trial. But Mr. Mahathir said his former deputy would soon be brought to court and charged for sodomy.

"I actually interviewed the people he sodomized, the women that he had sex with, the driver who brought the women to the place where he met them," Mr. Mahathir said.

Mr. Anwar has vehemently denied the charges and says they are part of a conspiracy "at the highest levels of government."

Mr. Anwar is also under investigation for sedition, reason and holding unauthorized public rallies.

The ouster of Mr. Anwar has stunned many Malaysians, many of whom say they find it hard to believe that a man who was the country's anointed successor could suddenly be charged with so many crimes.

The press conference Tuesday was an effort by Mr. Mahathir to secure support for Mr. Anwar's dismissal. Sodomy is a crime in Malaysia under a colonial-era British law, but the allegations — if true — are bound to resonate within Mr. Anwar's conservative Muslim constituency. To his supporters, Mr. Anwar is a devout Muslim who has long protected Islamic causes in multiracial Malaysia.

See MALAYSIA, Page 8

AGENDA

Spain Rejects Bid to Ease Abortion Law

MADRID (AP) — Parliamentary deputies rejected Tuesday by one vote a proposal to relax Spain's abortion law.

The main opposition Socialist Party's proposal to ease the 1985 legislation that decriminalized abortion for certain cases garnered 172 votes in favor in the nearly full parliamentary chamber, one less than the number of "No" votes.

The existing law allows abortion through the first 12 weeks of preg-

nancies judged to be dangerous to the mother's life or mental health, as well as in cases of rape, incest or fetal malformation.

The rejected proposal sought to permit the termination of any pregnancy in the first 12 weeks if it created a personal, social or family conflict for the woman.

The proposal has already been blocked twice by Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's Popular Party since it took office in 1996.

Obuchi Is Cautious About Plan for Banks

After a meeting Tuesday in New York with President Bill Clinton, Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan said he was "neither optimistic nor pessimistic" about the chances of restructuring Japan's banking and finance systems. Page 13.



LESOTHO UNREST — Residents of Maseru with clothes looted from shops Tuesday during South Africa's military intervention. Page 7.

U.S. Admonishes China Over Its Barriers to Trade

Washington Seeks Access to 1.2 Billion Shoppers

By Elisabeth Rosenthal
New York Times Service

BEIJING — A senior U.S. trade official Tuesday impatiently criticized China's unwillingness to open its markets to foreign companies and accused China of tightening restrictions on foreign businesses, firing off another volley in what has become an increasingly tense trade relationship.

Contending that China's policies had helped produce a bilateral trade deficit of \$1 billion a week for the United States, the official said that the U.S. government was "exploring its options," looking for ways to pressure China into giving U.S. businesses improved access to its 1.2 billion consumers.

"They have taken this relationship for granted," said David Aaron, undersecretary of commerce for international trade, adding, "The list of barriers is just getting bigger and we're not crossing anything off the list — that's the problem."

Mr. Aaron, who was in Beijing to attend a conference and meet with Chinese officials, offered hope that the two trading partners could ultimately cooperate. But the polite trade discussions that surrounded President Bill Clinton's visit to China this spring have clearly given way to exasperation and blunt talk. Mr. Aaron characterized his meetings with the Chinese this week as "somewhat somber."

"We recognize that the Chinese have lots of difficult problems to face," Mr. Aaron told reporters, listing the Asian economic crisis, falling state-owned enterprises and this summer's disastrous floods. "But my job is to make sure that on that list of problems is this trade deficit and the treatment of businesses here."

According to the U.S. government, the American trade deficit with China is over \$50 billion annually and growing, though Chinese officials say the numbers are exaggerated.

Mr. Aaron's terse admonitions come after a few tense weeks in which China and the United States have locked horns over new U.S. regulations that ban imports from China that are packed in untreated wood containers, a ban that may affect more than half of Chinese exports to the United States.

U.S. officials have said the new requirements are necessary to prevent further invasions by the Asian long-horned beetle, which in the last two years has emerged from raw wood packing material from China to kill thousands of trees in Chicago and New York.

But Chinese trade officials have said that the regulations were motivated not

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The Internet
The iHr online www.ihrt.com

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France	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10 SR
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Italy	2.800 Lira	Spain	225 Ptas
Ivory Coast	1.250 CFA	Tunisia	1.250 Din
Jordan	1.250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	\$1.20

EU Bank Chief Sees a Late Jolt on Rates

He Warns of 'Rather Forced' Realignment Before Start of Single Currency

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The head of the European Central Bank, Wim Duisenberg, predicted Tuesday that European interest rates would be brought into line in the 100 days remaining before the introduction of the European single currency.

He ruled out joint action with the United States to lower interest rates.

At the same time, the International Monetary Fund warned that the single currency could result in financial instability and a banking crisis for which

European governments were ill-prepared. The IMF said the new currency, the euro, would put pressure on the European banking system at a time when it might be difficult to close banks or reduce costs.

"In such an environment, inefficient and unprofitable institutions may continue to operate, engaging in increasingly risky activities," the IMF said in its Capital Markets Report.

The case with which banks will be able to make unsecured loans across borders could mean a "higher risk of contagion," it added, as neither governments

nor central banks would be responsible for ensuring market stability throughout the euro zone. It said the European Central Bank had no authority to address a liquidity crisis.

Mr. Duisenberg told the monetary committee of the European Parliament that the central bank would prefer to see interest rates — which range from 3.2 percent in Austria to 6.19 percent in Ireland — fall gradually into line rather than experience "a steep fall in a single day."

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The Dollar			
New York	Tuesday 9:45 PM	previous close	
DM	1.6814	1.6802	
Yen	135.395	134.47	
FF	5.8455	5.6875	
Pound	1.6845	1.681	
The Dow			
Tuesday close	percent change		
-38.05	7.897.20	-0.45%	
S&P 500			
+5.73	1,028.62	+0.58%	
Nasdaq			
+17.35	1,697.78	+1.03%	

Students Increase 6% a Year/Double Shifts Will Become Triple

In Overcrowded Gaza, School's Never Out

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

JABALYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza—Imagine being Ahmad Mousa, chief of elementary schools in Gaza's astonishingly overcrowded refugee districts.

When schools opened last year, he had to cope with 10,000 additional students. This year, he must find room for 11,000 more. Next year, the school system is expected to grow by 12,000 pupils.

Yet with the number of students increasing at a rate of 6 or 7 percent a year, Mr. Mousa's budget has grown by just 2 percent in the last two years. A school system in an affluent American suburb that is roughly the size of Gaza's spends roughly 30 times more money than Mr. Mousa.

"We're using administrative offices for classrooms and shipping containers for administrative offices," said Mr. Mousa, a veteran official of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, which runs most of Gaza's elementary schools. "We're short on buildings, short on hiring additional teachers, short on books and short on furniture."

The social and political earthquake that gave birth to contemporary Gaza was Israel's 1948 war of independence. Some 250,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes and sought refuge in Gaza. The refugees thought their stay would be brief—a few months, maybe a year. But today they remain in Gaza and, together with their children and grandchildren, comprise one of the world's fastest-growing populations.

Jabalya is the largest of Gaza's camps, but the word "camp" does not do justice to the jumble that Jabalya has become. In its shadeless streets, children sputter out of alleyways, dart between cars, scurry and eddy along the curbs.

MORE THAN half of Jabalya's 100,000 people have not yet reached puberty and a good portion have no shoes. A decade ago, it was Jabalya youths who started the *intifada*—the Palestinian uprising against Israel.

Israeli troops have since pulled out of most of Gaza, leaving it under the control of the Palestinian Authority. Gaza's population continues to expand at a rate of nearly 5 percent a year, the product of a conservative Islamic society that frowns on birth control and attaches prestige to large families—as well as a notion that larger families will help build the Palestinian nation.

That has left just about every resource here—clinics, water and power supplies, recreational facilities and especially schools—impossibly overstretched.

In Gaza's refugee camps, 170 schools are



Palestinian fifth-grade students raising their hands to answer a question during an English class in a school in the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza. There are 58 students in the class despite double shifts at the school.

jammed into 109 school buildings. That is accomplished by holding classes for one school's pupils in the morning, then sending them home to make room for the next school in the afternoon. Next year, Mr. Mousa said, triple shifts may be necessary in Jabalya and other neighborhoods.

In Jabalya, where schools are most crowded, 55 students are crammed into every classroom. Eight of the 11 schools in the camp were built in the early 1950s, when the refugees still believed they would return home soon and no one expected the buildings would have to last more than a few years.

These schools are run by the United Nations, but there is no sign they enjoy much priority. There are no computers, no overhead projectors and, in most schools, no radiators to keep classrooms warm in the winter.

The crude desks have been scarred by two generations of pupils; some teachers can recognize the

carvings they made on desktops as pupils 30 years ago.

Despite the crowding, in some ways life has improved in Gaza over the last half-century. Public health standards are vastly improved. Many fewer infants or mothers die in childbirth and the elderly live longer than ever.

But the effects of crowding have overwhelmed the schools.

"Kids become violent and aggressive because of crowding," said Halil Halani, headmaster of a Jabalya boys school. "Teachers can't control them in such big classes."

In addition, conjunctivitis and other infections spread like wildfire. Last April, Mr. Halani said, 225 of his school's 600 pupils were absent one day with skin infections. Intestinal infections run rampant. "We're educating kids in very, very critical circumstances," he said.

Hurricane Leaves a Trail Of Caribbean Destruction

Storm Kills at Least 10 and Batters Puerto Rico

The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—The hurricane designated Georges, carrying winds up to 120 miles an hour, knocked out power and forced residents into shelters in densely populated Dominican Republic on Tuesday, after having devastated Puerto Rico and leaving at least 10 dead across the Caribbean.

Powerful thunderstorms left Puerto Rico, an island of 4 million people, completely without electricity and 80 percent of its people without water.

Most highways were obstructed, the government said.

The hurricane spawned tornadoes, flooded hotels and exploded shops and car windows as it slowly ripped through Puerto Rico.

The storm turned trees into missiles, flipped small airplanes, whisked away sandline dishes and forced tens of thousands of people from their homes and into shelters.

"We are starting from ground zero," a somber Governor Pedro Rossello said of recovery efforts.

With winds and rains dying slowly, workers cleared debris from the runways at the San Juan international airport so emergency aid could be flown in.

"The situation is critical," said Mayor Anibal Melendez of the eastern Puerto Rican resort of Fajardo, where dozens of homes lost their roofs.

President Bill Clinton declared Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands disaster areas, authorizing immediate release of U.S. recovery aid.

One of the most powerful storms to hit the Caribbean in years, Georges headed Tuesday for the Dominican Republic and Haiti, where many of that island's 15 million people live in substandard housing that could leave them exposed to the hurricane's fury.

Hurricane warnings were posted for Haiti, eastern Cuba, the southeastern Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos islands, and a hurricane watch was in effect in parts of central Cuba and the central Bahamas.

Concern was growing in Florida, where workers put shutters over the windows at Key West City Hall.

Georges unleashed a landslide near San Juan that killed three people. Civil

Defense officials said. Two people died of heart attacks in shelters, and one person was reported missing in another landslide.

The storm killed two people and injured several others in Antigua. Prime Minister Lester Bird said. One death was reported in St. Kitts, where 70 percent of homes were damaged, as were the hospital, airport and police station.

A curfew was in effect there to prevent looting, said a government spokesman, Erasmus Williams.

As it moved westward across southern Puerto Rico, Georges spawned tornadoes in the central town of Barranquitas and the eastern island of Vieques.

Gusts reaching 175 miles an hour were reported in the interior mountains, where damage reports were sketchy.

Georges also caused extensive property damage in the U.S. Virgin Islands; Antigua and other smaller Caribbean islands.

On the French island of Guadeloupe, France sent a team of 170 rescue and repair workers to help recovery efforts on the island, where 16,000 people lacked power.

2 Storms Build Off Africa

Two tropical storms swirled off the coast of West Africa on Tuesday while Hurricane Georges pummeled islands in the Caribbean. The Associated Press reported from Miami.

The tropical storm designated Jeanne formed in the eastern Atlantic on Monday, just one day after the appearance of Ivan. It is the ninth tropical cyclone to form in the Atlantic in 33 days.

It was only the third system in more than 100 years to become a tropical storm so far east, said a hurricane specialist, Ed Rappaport, of the National Hurricane Center.

Forecasters expected Jeanne to pass to the south of the Cape Verde Islands, but if the storm turns more northwest, the islands could experience tropical storm conditions late Tuesday.

Tropical storm-force wind extended as far as 105 miles from the center, and forecasters expect some strengthening in the next 24 hours. Meanwhile, the tropical storm designated Ivan was moving away from land.

The Cost of Protecting U.S. Embassies

\$1.8 Billion Sought From Congress to Revamp Security After Bombings

By Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON—The Clinton administration will ask Congress this week for \$1.8 billion for emergency security improvements at most of the nation's 260 embassies and consulates worldwide, a down payment on protecting U.S. missions against terrorism.

That money, about twice the amount Congress has appropriated for diplomatic security since 1985, reflects the administration's conclusion that no country can be considered safe for U.S. diplomats following the fatal bombings in East Africa last month.

But the request is far below the full amount the State Department has said is needed to modify or build embassies meeting the security standards established in the 1980s. In 1985, the department put the cost of converting or replacing all embassies at \$3.5 billion.

In his speech at the United Nations on Monday, President Bill Clinton spoke briefly of the new financing, saying that it would "to repair our embassies, to improve security, to expand the worldwide fight against terrorism, to help our

friends in Kenya and Tanzania with the wounds they have suffered."

Of the \$1.8 billion request, which the White House is expected to send to Congress on Tuesday, about \$200 million would go toward building embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to replace those demolished in the Aug. 7 bombings. Because the construction could take two to three years, the money would also finance temporary missions.

Also, \$1.2 billion was earmarked for emergency security improvements in embassies worldwide, including additional security guards, video cameras and other equipment to enhance security, particularly around the perimeters of diplomatic missions.

Correction

In some editions of Tuesday's paper, the continuation of a front-page article on Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan did not appear. The full version of the article, headlined "Japan's Leader Spreads Blame For Bank Crisis," appears on the Internet at www.ihf.com.

The remainder of the money would go toward reimbursing the Pentagon for its costs in dealing with the bombings in East Africa; increasing Secret Service protection of traveling U.S. dignitaries; providing new anti-terrorism programs in countries where the United States has diplomatic missions; and giving disaster relief for Kenya and Tanzania, including payments to families of those killed in the blasts.

"If we can keep big bombs from entering inside our compounds and embassies, we'll reduce the risk of catastrophic collapses of buildings," said an administration diplomatic security official. Lawmakers are expected to approve the request, half the sum that the administration had originally suggested it would seek.

Congressional aides said the proposed upgrades are likely to fall short of the recommended security standards the State Department set in the mid-1980s.

A senior House Republican aide said "we need better and timely intelligence" on terrorists like those believed to be associated with Osama bin Laden, the exiled Saudi accused of orchestrating the embassy bombings.

TRAVEL UPDATE

U.K. to Move Road

From Stonehenge Site

LONDON (AP)—The British government said Tuesday that it planned to move a busy road away from Stonehenge, distancing the mysterious 5,000-year-old site from "its surrounding pollution and clutter."

The plan included a two-kilometer tunnel, bypass and a visitors center for the famous site in Wiltshire.

Greek Airport Strike

ATHENS (Reuters)—Greek airport workers have called a four-day strike starting Thursday, which is expected to cancel or delay hundreds of flights.

"There will be many problems in all airports," an aviation official said Tuesday. "The skeleton staff will be able to handle only a very small number of flights each day."

The Seychelles government has shelved a proposed \$100 arrival fee that would have taken effect in January.

A powerful typhoon hit southwestern Japan, grounding domestic flights and disrupting train service.

Skyway Airlines Co., the first Japanese airline to begin operations in 35 years, said its flights left on time Tuesday following three days of delays in which some 5,500 passengers were affected.

Northwest Airlines was back at full operation following settlement of a 15-day pilots strike.

Texan, Linked to bin Laden, Is Charged With Lying to Jury

By Michael Grunwald
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK—A Texas man has been indicted for allegedly lying to the Manhattan grand jury investigating the suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden, and the indictment revealed that prosecutors are investigating whether the man tried to help Mr. bin Laden procure chemical weapons.

Wadh Hage, a U.S. citizen who once served as Mr. bin Laden's personal secretary in Sudan, was charged with eight counts of perjury for lying during two grand jury appearances about members of Qaida, Mr. bin Laden's worldwide network of Islamic radicals. Mr. Hage had been arrested last week and charged with three counts of making false statements to the FBI, and sources say he remains a prime suspect in last month's deadly bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

In the indictment Monday of Mr. Hage, prosecutors provided a wealth of new details about the two-year-old grand jury investigation of "the structure and operational status" of Mr. bin Laden's organization. The grand jury has returned a sealed indictment charging Mr. bin Laden with terrorist activities and now has expanded it to include the Aug. 7 embassy bombings.

For example, the indictment names 20 countries where Qaida is allegedly operating, including the United States, and reveals that the grand jury is trying to determine the "identities, code names, aliases and whereabouts of any

Qaida members and associates."

The indictment also indicates that Mr. Hage, an unassuming man with a bushy beard who was working most recently as a manager in a Fort Worth tire store, is under investigation for "the extent to which [his] international travels concerned efforts to procure chemical weapons and their components on behalf of Osama bin Laden." The grand jury also is examining the extent of his alleged role "in the provision of logistical support and training to the persons who attacked the United States and United Nations forces in Somalia in 1993 and the early part of 1994."

Shortly after the embassy bombings, U.S. cruise missiles flared a Sudanese pharmaceutical plant that was suspected of producing chemical weapons components for Mr. bin Laden. The United States also fired missiles at suspected Qaida training camps in Afghanistan.

Suspect Held in Germany

A suspect arrested in Germany in connection with last month's U.S. Embassy bombings in Africa will be held in Munich until he can be extradited to the United States, according to a court warrant issued Tuesday. The Associated Press reported from Munich.

The United States has 40 days to complete extradition proceedings for the suspect, whom German officials identified as Mamdouh Mahmoud Salim. The German Justice Ministry must approve the extradition.

WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe	Today	Tomorrow	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	24/75	19/61	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Amsterdam	20/68	12/50	21/70	13/55	21/70	13/55
Antwerp	20/68	12/50	21/70	13/55	21/70	13/55
Athens	20/68	12/50	21/70	13/55	21/70	13/55
Berlin	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Brussels	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Bucharest	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Cardiff	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Copenhagen	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Dublin	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Edinburgh	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Geneva	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Hamburg	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Heidelberg	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
London	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Lyon	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Madrid	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Moscow	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Munich	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Nice	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Paris	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Rome	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Stockholm	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46
Toronto	18/54	10/40	19/61	11/46	19/61	11/46

North America	Today	Tomorrow	High	Low	High	Low
Albuquerque	13/65	10/44	10/58	7/44	10/58	7/44
Anchorage	28/54	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Atlanta	19/61	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Boston	19/61	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Chicago	19/61	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Dallas	19/61	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Denver	19/61	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Detroit	19/61	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Houston	19/61	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Los Angeles	19/61	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Miami	19/61	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57

Asia	Today	Tomorrow	High	Low	High	Low
Almaty	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Bangkok	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Beijing	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Bombay	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Brussels	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Calcutta	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Chengdu	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Colon	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Hong Kong	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Indanegara	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Kobe	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
London	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Manila	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Moscow	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
New Delhi	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Osaka	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Paris	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Seoul	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Singapore	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Taipei	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Tokyo	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57
Yokohama	27/80	14/57	20/73	14/57	20/73	14/57

South America	Today	Tomorrow	High	Low	High	Low
Buenos Aires	20/68	12/50	21/70	13/55	21/70	13/55
Caracas	20/68	12/50	21/70	13/55	21/70	13/55
Lima	20/68	12/50	21/70	13/55	21/70	13/55
Sao Paulo	20/68	12/50	21/70	13/55	21/70	13/55
Santiago	20/68	12/50	21/70	13/55	21/70	13/55

Oceania	Today	Tomorrow	High	Low	High	Low
Auckland	17/52	11/56	18/64	12/51	18/64	12/51
Sydney	20/68	12/50	21/70	13/55	21/70	13/55

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The Lewinsky Testimony / Afterward, Jurors Tried to Comfort Her

Grand Jury Bonded With Lewinsky

Appearance Resembled a Counseling Session, Transcript Shows

By Melinda Henneberger
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The country may not like Monica Lewinsky, and a recent poll showed that only 5 percent of Americans held a favorable view of her. But grand jurors obviously did, urging her to forgive herself, forget Linda Tripp, who taped her confession of the affair, with President Bill Clinton, and get on with her life during a court appearance that often seemed more like a counseling session.

When she was first asked about sex with the president, Ms. Lewinsky — who asked the grand jury to call her Monica — was so embarrassed that she had to close her eyes and force herself to answer the question.

And with prosecutors pressing her to specify what body parts went where, grand jurors seemed to become more and more sympathetic.

Near the end of her testimony on Aug. 20, a juror asked her if there was anything she wanted to add.

Ms. Lewinsky defended the president while offering a blanket apology for her own behavior. "I would just like to say that no one ever asked me to lie and I was never promised a job for my silence. And that I'm sorry. I'm really sorry for everything that's happened. And I hate Linda Tripp," she said, and began to cry.

Several grand jurors tried to comfort her.

One told her, "We've all fallen short. We sin every day. I don't care whether it's murder, whether it's affairs or whatever. And we get over that. You ask forgiveness and you go on. So to let you know from here, you have my forgiveness. Because we all fall short."

Several others agreed. One advised her to let go of her feelings for Ms. Tripp, saying, "Whatever goes around comes around." Again, others chimed in, with "It comes around" and "It does."

Just before she was excused from the grand jury, the foreman told her, "Basically what we wanted to leave with, because this will probably be your last visit to us, I hope I'm not going to have to do this any more and I hope you won't have to come here any more, but we wanted to offer you a bouquet of good wishes that includes luck, success, happiness and blessings."

She again burst into tears and responded in kind: "I appreciate all of your understanding for this situation and your ability to open your heart and

your mind and your soul." The testimony and evidence made public by Congress on Monday frequently presented Ms. Lewinsky in terms that make it easy to see why the grand jury responded the way they did.

She is shown surrounded by federal agents in January at the Ritz Carlton Hotel and berated by assistants to the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, who wanted her to testify against the president. They threatened her with jail and made fun of her for wanting her "mommy."

She had enough presence of mind to respond to the surprise appearance of Mr. Starr's team with legal questions: If the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit went away, would she still be in legal jeopardy? What if, theoretically speaking, she had not always told Ms. Tripp the truth? She also thought to question the choice of her father's friend and lawyer Bill Ginsburg as her attorney, worrying because he was a medical malpractice lawyer inexperienced in criminal cases.

Still, when her mother, Marcia Lewis, finally did arrive, she was clearly worried sick for her daughter, telling the Starr team that Ms. Lewinsky had been suicidal six years earlier and was young for her age. Ms. Lewinsky later said she had been on anti-depressants since early in 1995.

In all of her grand jury testimony, Ms. Lewinsky comes across as unfailingly loyal to the president, calling him her "sexual soulmate" and saying of the affair, "I think back on it, and he always made me smile when I was with him. He was sunshine."

And she defended the president in a number of ways, insisting, for example, that he would never have had sex in the Oval Office itself.

Asked whether the president said she should deny a relationship, she answered, "I think I always offered that."

She is hard on herself in many ways, taking responsibility for hectoring Mr. Clinton to get her a job.

She does defend herself on such subjects as why she kept the blue dress stained with the president's semen. Ms. Tripp, she said, suggested that she keep it as evidence. And when Ms. Lewinsky refused, Ms. Tripp told her she looked fat in it, so she never wore it again and did not get around to having it cleaned.

She also said that she wore "the infamous beret" — in which she appeared with Mr. Clinton in a film clip since shown thousands of times on television — as the result of a bad-hair day.

In her first grand jury appearance on Aug. 6, prosecutors were much more willing to settle for a general description of what occurred between the president and Ms. Lewinsky. By the Aug. 20 appearance, however, when prosecutors were obviously matching Ms. Lewinsky's responses to the president's grand jury testimony in an attempt to prove perjury, they were asking such questions as, "Were there times when the president would touch you either on the breasts or in the genital area directly to the skin or was it always through clothing?"

The grand jurors seemed more interested in understanding Ms. Lewinsky's motivations. One asked, "Was it love or sexual obsession?" She answered that it was both, but "more love."

Another asked if she had truly believed "anything real could have come from this relationship?" Yes, she said.

And when she grew embarrassed, they were sorry for her. One suggested that she try closing her eyes again, and another said, "We won't look at you."



In a photograph in the Starr report, Monica Lewinsky and President Clinton posing in the White House in 1995.

Starr Report Said to Twist Lewinsky Testimony

By David E. Rosenbaum
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Monica Lewinsky told federal grand jurors that "no one ever asked me to lie, and I was never promised a job for my silence," according to the transcript of her testimony.

Other evidence that might be exculpatory to President Bill Clinton, including testimony from his friend Vernon Jordan, his secretary, Betty Currie, and the deputy White House counsel, Bruce Lindsey, is still in boxes in a House of Representatives office building and has not been made public.

"Given what's there in the Lewinsky testimony, we can't wait to get our hands on the other witness testimony," said a lawyer close to the Clinton defense team. "Much of what she says is quite helpful."

The lawyer said that the evidence made public on Monday offered the best examples of how the report that Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, sent to Congress was "not a fair summary of the evidence."

Ms. Lewinsky's statement that she had never been encouraged to lie about her relationship with the president — repeated several times in different forms in her three days of grand jury testimony — does not appear in the text of Mr. Starr's report.

The statement contradicts two of the charges that Mr. Starr said could amount to impeachable offenses.

One charge was that the president and Ms. Lewinsky had an understanding they would lie about their relationship under oath in the Paula Jones lawsuit.

Another charge was that the president had obstructed justice by helping Ms. Lewinsky find a job in New York, as a way to dissuade her from testifying truthfully.

Rather than quote Ms. Lewinsky's direct statement that she had never been asked to lie, Mr. Starr characterized her testimony this way: "Ms. Lewinsky stated that the president never explicitly told her to lie. Instead, as she explained, they both understood from their conversations that they would continue their pattern of covering up and lying about the relationship."

Another part of Ms. Lewinsky's testimony that could be to Mr. Clinton's advantage was her remark that she had told Linda Tripp, one of Mr. Starr's main witnesses, "a whole bunch of lies," although she did not know that Ms. Tripp was secretly recording their conversations.

Among those falsehoods, Ms. Lewinsky testified, was her statement to Ms. Tripp that she had told Mr. Jordan she would not sign an affidavit denying a sexual relationship with the president until Mr. Jordan had found her a job.

Her testimony that this was not true could be important because it explodes a central rationale Mr. Starr used to convince Attorney General Janet Reno that he should become involved in the Lewinsky investigation in the first place.

Mr. Starr told Ms. Reno at the time that evidence Mr. Jordan was helping Ms. Lewinsky find a job to keep her quiet fit a pattern that he was investigating in other Whitewater witnesses, particularly Mr. Jordan's

assistance to Webster Hubbell, a Clinton friend from their days in Arkansas.

Ms. Lewinsky's testimony corroborates Mr. Jordan's public statements that he never asked for anything in return for helping her find a job.

At other points in response to questions from the prosecutors, Ms. Lewinsky testified that Mr. Clinton had never told her to get rid of presents he gave her or instructed her to delete incriminating material from her home computer.

But more useful, according to the lawyers close to the Clinton defense, is Ms. Lewinsky's description of the aggressive way she was treated when she was first approached by Mr. Starr's investigators. She was treated like a drug kingpin and not a young woman, one lawyer said, buttressing the Clinton assertion that Mr. Starr and his associates are zealous out of control.

After they swooped down on her in January at a hotel bar where she was meeting with Mrs. Tripp, Ms. Lewinsky said, the investigators in effect terrorized her, and they advised her not to call her lawyer.

When she wanted to call her mother, she testified, Jackie Bennett, a Starr deputy, told her, "You're 24, you're smart, you're old enough, you don't need to call your mommy."

Ms. Lewinsky said the investigators threatened to prosecute her mother unless she agreed to make surreptitious recordings of conversations with Mr. Jordan, the president's secretary and "maybe the president," she could be imprisoned for 27 years. "It was so incredibly frightening," Ms. Lewinsky said.

POLITICAL NOTES

NBC Clips Part of Tape, But the Others Don't

WASHINGTON — About 90 minutes into the broadcast of President Bill Clinton's testimony about Monica Lewinsky, NBC blinked. Two top executive producers called Tom Brokaw from the master control room and said the network would cut away from one of the most sexually explicit parts of the testimony.

Around the same time, the president of CBS News, Andrew Heyward, walked out of the network's control room on Manhattan's West Side to the set where Dan Rather was anchoring. Mr. Heyward, who had already skimmed the transcript, said he wanted to leave in the most graphic portions, and Mr. Rather agreed.

A few blocks away, Shelby Coffey 3d, ABC's executive vice president, sat in a small third-floor edit room with his thumb on a switch in case the network needed to break away immediately.

NBC switched to its talking heads as a prosecutor asked the president about the use of "an object" during sexual activity. NBC cut away again a few minutes later when Mr. Clinton was asked about a cigar, masturbation and phone sex.

"We just don't think it's necessary for you to hear all of the very vivid descriptions," Mr. Brokaw told viewers. But six other networks — CBS, ABC, CNN, Fox News Channel, C-SPAN and NBC's cable outlet, MSNBC — stayed with the videotape.

During the broadcast, the NBC News president, Andrew Lack, and vice president, Bill Wheatley, decided to break away when the testimony "went over the line." Mr. Wheatley said, "We were mindful of

the fact that despite the warnings, some viewers still might be deeply offended, and there might be unsupervised children."

But MSNBC, he said, "has a far different audience profile — for example, children don't watch." The ABC News president, David Westin, said he stayed with the testimony because "as much as something like this could be, it was portrayed in pretty clinical language."

"Viewers know by now that the Starr investigation is replete with very graphic sexual content," said Mr. Heyward of CBS. "You can justify bending the usual rules."

ABC and CBS both carried the four-hour videotape in its entirety. (WP)

Blumenthal Denies It

WASHINGTON — Sidney Blumenthal has challenged any journalist with whom he had confidential dealings to blow the whistle on him. Feeling unfairly smeared on charges of leaking the tale of Representative Henry Hyde's 1990s affair, the White House aide wants to prove that he had no part in the story reported by Salon magazine.

His lawyer, William McDaniel, said that any reporter who says Mr. Blumenthal whispered about Mr. Hyde's sex life is released from any agreement to protect Mr. Blumenthal as the source. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Bob Dole, the former presidential candidate, on President Clinton's grand jury videotape: "People who are opposed to him are going to stay that way, people who are for him probably feel good about it and the others are still sick of it all." (Reuters)

Away From Politics

• A jury in Hillsborough, North Carolina decided that a psychiatrist had been negligent in his treatment of a former law student who killed two people during a 1995 shooting spree. Wendell Williamson was awarded \$500,000 in his civil lawsuit against his former psychiatrist, Myron Lipzin. (AP)

• For the second time in two years, a relative of the du Ponts has been charged in a killing. In the new case, Christopher Mosley, the stepfather of a du Pont heir, Dean MacGuigan, was accused last week of arranging the killing of Patricia Margello, who the police said was Mr. MacGuigan's

girlfriend. The FBI refused to offer a motive for the killing, and the U.S. attorney's office in Wilmington, Delaware, declined to comment on the case. (NYT)

• A fire broke out at the Old State House in Little Rock, Arkansas, where Bill Clinton held election and re-election victory parties in 1992 and 1996. The fire started when workers using a torch to remove paint from gutters sparked a fire in the building's attic. Cathie Matthews, director of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, said a damage estimate had not been set. The building has been closed since a renovation project began in 1995. (AP)

Enough! Say Global Media of the Clinton Case

The Associated Press

LONDON — His enemies gloated at the spectacle, but as Bill Clinton's grand jury testimony was beamed around the globe many observers — not all of them admirers — expressed dismay that the president of the United States should have to suffer ritual humiliation on television.

From Europe to Asia and the Middle East, people decried what they saw as an erosion of standards protecting privacy and keeping explicit sexuality out of the mainstream media.

"The disproportion of this groping investigation into a pathetic and tacky affair defies belief," wrote Polly Toynbee in the Guardian newspaper in England.

Ulf Andenæs, a commentator on Oslo's Aftenposten, attacked Mr. Clinton's accusers, saying that they "must be blind to how this affair is discrediting the United States abroad."

Callers to Bucharest's Pro TV compared Mr. Clinton's ordeal to trials under the former Communist regime, where people were "put in a corner, judged and punished, in most cases without being guilty," said Ionela Banares-

cu, a producer at the station.

"Many Romanians suffered these unjust traumas, and Clinton's testimony reminded them about those past, painful moments under Communism."

But his political opponents exulted at Monday's broadcast of his four hours of testimony. Many television stations continued running excerpts Tuesday.

"Palestinians follow details with a sense of rejoicing," ran the headline in a Palestinian daily, Al Ayyam. The newspaper quoted a political analyst, Ghassan Khatib, as having said that Palestinians feel Mr. Clinton is too pro-Israel, "and so that is why they watched to see his face and body movement that revealed his uncomfortable situation."

Few commentators felt Mr. Clinton had been damaged.

"For those who viewed the tape he was what he has been for them for six years: a good president but a mediocre man, husband and father," said La Repubblica, the Rome daily.

But some feared that his credibility — and that of his government — had been eroded.

"Is Clinton in condition to govern the world in this time

of economic uncertainty?"

asked El Periodico, the Barcelona newspaper. "Can he think, advise and decide calmly? The doubt gets bigger."

The Norwegian newspaper Dagsavisen said that recent events "have to a large extent paralyzed the United States' ability to lead in a turbulent world."

But for Thais, the president's ordeal proved "the strength and resilience of the American political culture," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Kobsak Chutikul.

"One cannot imagine the leader of any other country being put through such an ordeal in a public and transparent manner," he said.

"Rather than seeing this as a weakness or losing respect, one can see it as a demonstration of American inner strength — that no one is above the law."

In Iran, the media were blamed. "Whether one is for or against President Bill Clinton, the U.S. media have demonstrated their lack of taste and discretion," the Iran News said.

■ In Sihanouk's View

If every country was as tough on its leader as the

United States has been on

President Clinton there would be no heads of state left. Reuters quoted King Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia as saying on Tuesday.

The constitutional monarch, a self-confessed playboy in his younger days, lightened the mood during a break in crisis talks between Cambodia's rival political parties by steering the con-

versation round to the Clinton saga, according to an opposition party leader, Sam Rainsy.

"He said such a problem would not happen in Asia," Mr. Sam Rainsy said. "He said that if every country was as tough with its leader as the States, then there would be no head of state in any country."

"We all laughed, of course."

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THE PENINSULA HONG KONG

In Tape of Grand Jury Testimony, Clinton Shows His Many Faces

By Todd S. Purdum
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton has always loved nothing better than a tough audience and, in the end, that is how he treated Kenneth Starr's grand jury, starting shakily, then warming to his task, unspooling every thread of wounded dignity, controlled anger and confident elaboration at his command in a performance filled with trademark touches.

Like the lawyer he is, Mr. Clinton complained about trick questions but sometimes finagled. Like the politician he is, he filibustered, holding down the score and running out the clock. Like the fighter he is, he tossed off veiled insults and condescending putdowns. Like the pedagogue he is, he lectured. Like the scared, tired, defensive man he has become, he sometimes bridled and sometimes just seemed to sag.

Yet nowhere in the four hours and three minutes of his ordeal in the Map Room on the afternoon of Aug. 17 did Mr. Clinton display any emotion rather than the anger he unleashed in his televised speech to America that night.

Instead, in muted and muffled tones in supposedly secret testimony that he made clear he knew would become public, Mr. Clinton actually said, "I'm sorry," for misleading his senior aides about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky — two words that it took him 18 more days to utter in public.

"They may have been misleading," Mr. Clinton said of his initial denials to his aides. "And if they were, I have to take responsibility for it, and I'm sorry."

On the other hand, Mr. Clinton also said, "I'm sorry to say for reasons I don't entirely remember," he once asked his secretary, Betty Currie, to wait in the dining room off his private

study while he talked to Ms. Lewinsky. Mrs. Currie testified that she waited on a night when the president and Ms. Lewinsky were in the study, a night when Ms. Lewinsky says they had the fateful encounter that stained her dress.

In sum, most of the Bill Clintons the world has come to know make at least a cameo appearance in this record that the president himself at one point ruefully acknowledged "will be forever in the historic annals of the United States."

With unsparring clarity, the videotape captures Mr. Clinton the shameless charmer, acknowledging that prosecutors could be forgiven for thinking that the president must have acute recall about such "embarrassing and personally painful" events, and wishing that he had more time to take grand jurors' questions.

It also shows Mr. Clinton the cheapskate, confessing that gifts he gave Ms. Lewinsky — like a blanket from Radio City Music Hall —

were meaningless leftovers he had received as gifts from others.

There is the empathetic son of a violent, broken home, who says that Ms. Lewinsky is "a good young woman with a good heart and a good mind," who is "burdened by some unfortunate conditions of her upbringing."

In the next breath, there is the gimlet-eyed appraiser of human motivation who says he had no doubt that once their sexual interaction was over, Ms. Lewinsky would not be able to help talking about it, because "it was a part of her psyche."

There is the quibbler who argues about the meaning of the words "is" and "truth," who draws distinctions about whether somebody told him something on the phone or in a meeting, who describes his conduct with Ms. Lewinsky by directly acknowledging only which acts he had not performed, who contends that he was trying to keep his aides "out of trouble" by telling them

untruths. And there is the sheepish cookie-theft caught red-handed who, when asked to describe how Ms. Lewinsky's dress might have been stained, says, smiling faintly, "You know what the facts are; there's no point in a hypothetical."

Mr. Clinton's aides have long known that he makes his worst speeches early in the day, and as he began his testimony at 1:03 P.M., Mr. Clinton seemed groggy and feeling his way. As he unfolded a piece of paper and slowly read his blanketed statement acknowledging "inappropriate intimate contact" with Ms. Lewinsky, peering over half-glasses, he looked ashen, crumpled, flat.

But as he took the measure of his interrogators, Mr. Clinton's confidence grew. As they pressed for graphic details about sexual acts, his anger grew too, though his visible, audible manifestations were confined to a flexed jaw, a jabbed finger, a spit-out "sir," a terse and husky proclamation that he "deplored" what Paula Jones' lawyers were doing in their sexual misconduct lawsuit against him.

The Clinton Testimony

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The Clinton Testimony / He Must Have Nerves of Steel

In a Seattle Retirement Home, Clinton Arouses Sorrow and a Little Respect

By Sam Howe Verhovek
New York Times Service

SEATTLE — Margaret Watkins, 78, does not like Bill Clinton, never voted for him and is angry that the leader of the free world "basically let his libido get the best of him."

And yet, as she sat transfixed before the television Monday morning, Mrs. Watkins found herself doing something she had never done before in her life: She was cheering Mr. Clinton on.

"I can't believe the way they keep boring in on the man with all these crazy questions," she said after Mr. Clinton, for roughly the eighth time, parried a question from prosecutors about whether he had received oral sex from Monica Lewinsky. "I don't know how he's standing up under

all this pressure, but he does it. He must have nerves of steel. It's amazing."

"And you know," Mrs. Watkins said with a rueful chuckle, "you do need someone as president who can withstand the pressure. I don't like him, but I'll say this for him: He doesn't crack. We do need that in our president."

As residents of the Ida Culver House, a retirement home in Seattle's Ravenna neighborhood, gathered around a television in the home's living room and watched the president's videotaped grand jury testimony, a grudging respect for him was one of the themes that emerged.

Another theme, even as many residents admitted they found the testimony to be riveting, was a clear sense of sadness that the country was being put through the spectacle.

"We live in a different world these days, I guess," said Nancy Cadley, 77, a retired nurse who served in a medical unit in World War II and the Korean War. "Could you ever imagine President Roosevelt being persecuted like that, getting asked questions about his sex life? I can't imagine that. It's unimaginable."

Ms. Cadley spent most of the morning just outside the room, picking flowers for table centerpieces, but even she could not resist peeking in to watch the president.

There were certainly a few residents who disliked Mr. Clinton so much they were glad to see him on the grill.

"Keep what you saw," said a woman who spoke on condition that only her first name, Elizabeth, be revealed and who stormed out of

the room after watching for a few moments. "I think he's a — well, I can't say it. He's a dirty rat. He lies, he lies, he lies."

But among those who stayed, a much more common sentiment was anger at the prosecutors.

"This whole thing is a ploy," said Robert Kleitsch, 84, a retired government lawyer. "It's a fraud. These people are using our judicial system to try to get rid of a political opponent, in my opinion, and that's a very bad thing for our country, for our whole system. A very troubling thing."

Howard Laurine, 85, a retired metallurgist who was visibly angry, said afterward that he believed prosecutors were crucifying the president and he was infuriated that they were using his tax money to do so.

"I know he sinned and everything, but this has

nothing to do with his job," Mr. Laurine said. "This is just wrong."

Douglas Stockdale, a retired airline executive, said: "Would you listen to these questions? They're going into an awful lot of silly details. I think it's a disgraceful display of bad taste. This man is the president of the United States."

Claire Freiheit, 82, a retired registered nurse, is a proud Republican who never voted for Mr. Clinton. As she watched Monday morning, though, she forgot all about politics and simply wondered about the man.

"Being a nurse, I feel for him," Mrs. Freiheit said. "I think he has a problem and he needs something, but I don't know exactly what."

He needs a lot of love, but I don't know where he will get it."

Lewinsky's Gifts: The Ties That Bind

By Charles R. Babcock
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — To Monica Lewinsky, who loved ties since she worked at a men's necktie store in college, the six she gave President Bill Clinton as gifts were precious reminders of their time together.

"Almost all our conversations included something about my ties," she testified to the grand jury. "I used to bug him about wearing one of my ties because then I knew I was close to his heart."

To Bill Clinton, ties were such a common gift from friends and acquaintances that he had a closet full of them.

He said in his grand jury testimony that he recycled some of them, offering them as gifts to elevator and kitchen workers at the White House.

To prosecutors in Kenneth Starr's office, Ms. Lewinsky's gifts of ties to the president seemed to be of enormous interest, both in documenting the mutual exchanges of gifts and in trying to

determine whether the president was using the ties to try to signal Ms. Lewinsky.

The evidence made public by Congress on Monday includes pictures of the president wearing a tie Ms. Lewinsky gave him and a note he sent in September 1996 thanking her for a birthday tie.

"I appreciate your continued thoughtfulness and generosity," it said. "Hillary and I send our best wishes."

In a handwritten note, Mr. Clinton added: "The tie is really beautiful."

In her testimony, Ms. Lewinsky recalled that Mr. Clinton wore one particular yellow gift tie several times. She said she thought he might wear it before her grand jury appearance "because I thought he's just the kind of person that's going to wear this tie to tug on my emotional strings one last time before I go to the grand jury and say this under oath. And he didn't."

A grand juror asked how she felt when she saw a White House steward, Bayani Nelvis, wearing a tie she gave the president. "I had two very different thoughts," she replied. "My first thought was, 'You jerk, you're trying to show me how little you care about me and how little this meant to you by giving it — to show me that you gave it to someone else, it meant so little to you now.'"

"And my second thought was that it was some sort of message of some sorts. I don't know what."

During his videotaped testimony, the president rejected a prosecutor's suggestion that he gave Mr. Nelvis that particular tie by design.

Ms. Lewinsky told the grand jury that picking out ties was "a big thing for me ... and I liked to give him ties and I liked to see him wearing them."

In fact, a memo of a prosecutor's interview with her dated Aug. 11 spent nearly two pages describing in detail the six ties she gave the president and the times she saw him wearing them.

On one occasion during the 1996 campaign she recalled yelling to the president at a rally, "Hey, handsome, I like your tie!"



In a photo from the Starr report, the president shows off a gift necktie with a note: "To Monica — Thanks for the nice tie. Bill Clinton."

CLINTON: Republicans Firm on Inquiry

Continued from Page 1

House would vote articles of impeachment and send the matter to the Senate for a trial.

"As a member of the U.S. Senate, I'm a potential juror in this case," said Mr. Torricelli, long a Clinton defender. "Whatever affections I've held for Bill Clinton are entirely eclipsed by my sense of responsibility."

Mr. McCurry did not rule out the possibility that Mr. Clinton might agree to appear before legislators to answer questions about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern with whom he had an affair.

But he sharply criticized the process that has led to the release of the videotape and other evidence. Mr. McCurry said the broadcast of the videotape on Monday had made it "abundantly clear," in the White House view, "how grossly unfair the Starr report was in presenting a very one-sided account of the evidence the Office of the Independent Counsel had collected."

He said that the president's legal advisers were drafting a letter to the office of Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, to complain that while he "found room for hundreds and hundreds of salacious details" in his thick referral to the House, he "didn't find room for one sentence from the testimony of Monica Lewinsky: 'I would just like to say that no one asked me to lie and I was never promised a job for my silence.'"

Mr. McCurry called the omission "a grievous wrong for the president."

The White House communications director, Ann Lewis, said on television that the prosecutors' tough questioning of Mr. Clinton about his sexual conduct "confirmed for us" that sex "really has become the focus on this independent counsel's report."

"It does not come close to constituting the grounds for removal of a president from office," she said.

The Judiciary Committee faces a deadline of next Monday, imposed by vote of the full House, to decide whether to make public 16 additional boxes of evidence from Mr. Starr.

So far the committee, which is dominated by Republicans, has made public most of the evidence it has considered, after making some 120 deletions.

It is also considering making public a videotape of Mr. Clinton's deposition in January before lawyers in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case.

Representative Canady said he ex-

pected the panel to make public "any relevant portions of the video, if it deals with the Lewinsky matter."

That tape would allow the public to compare Mr. Clinton's original denials of a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky to his explanations Aug. 17 before the grand jury.

Republican members are believed to be proceeding with work on a draft of a resolution calling for an inquiry.

Meanwhile, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, the Republican leader in the Senate, joined calls for Mr. Clinton to appear on Capitol Hill to answer legislators' questions.

"Any time the president comes forward and comes clean in a formal setting," Mr. Lott said, "it would probably be a positive development."

White House aides indicated that such an appearance could be arranged only as part of an agreement by legislators to punish the president — there has been talk of a financial penalty — and to drop possible impeachment hearings and declare an end to the crisis that has hung over Mr. Clinton since January. It is a formula that for now appears unlikely to be accepted.

The angry bipartisanship that has characterized Judiciary Committee debates in the matter make a negotiated solution appear unlikely, at least in the short term.

The minority Democrats have accused the Republicans of forcing their will on the panel to make public masses of information intended to fuel public anger with the president.

House leaders from both parties and senior Republicans and Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee were to meet Wednesday morning in an effort to salvage something of their earlier declaration that the Clinton matter would be handled with bipartisan dispassion.

The meeting was called by the House speaker, Representative Newt Gingrich, Republican of Georgia.

Representative Lamar Smith, Republican of Texas, a member of the Judiciary Committee, said the panel was likely to send to the full House a resolution authorizing an impeachment inquiry. So did Representative Jerrold Nadler, Democrat of New York, another committee member.

They and others, however, predicted a fierce partisan debate before the resolution is reported out.

Some members told the congressional journal Roll Call that some Democrats on the committee were likely to vote to open an inquiry.

The Judiciary Committee would probably conduct its investigation, and possibly hold public hearings, through October, continuing its work after the Nov. 3 midterm elections, according to Roll Call.

An opinion poll made public Tuesday by CNN and USA Today showed Mr. Clinton's job approval rating at 66 percent after the broadcast Monday of his grand jury testimony.

That was 6 percentage points higher than a week earlier, and White House aides said it confirmed their feeling that the public was tired of the scandal and wanted Mr. Clinton to be able to return his full attention to the nation's business.

While such instant polls are often considered unreliable indicators of longer trends, the CNN poll was largely confirmed by instant polling by other television networks, which gave Mr. Clinton the same 60-percent-plus approval rating he has had for months.

Those favoring impeachment and removal from office fell to 32 percent, from 35 percent.

But Mr. Canady said, "If the president lied under oath before the grand jury, that is an impeachable offense."

TAPE: Ultimate Survivor Catches a Break?

Continued from Page 1

reveal several points of deception, in its totality it came to be seen not so much as evidence of Mr. Clinton's duplicity as an eloquent expression of angst and uncertainty by a young man struggling to find the right thing to do under difficult circumstances.

In similar fashion, the grand jury videotape might have backfired. Even if a close reading of the transcript could reveal points where the president was not telling the truth, in its totality it made Mr. Clinton again appear to be a reasonable man struggling to survive in a difficult situation brought on by his political enemies.

This historic parallel was the first thing that came to the mind of one Republican operative viewing the videotape.

"My God, I can't believe it, it's the draft letter all over again," said this consultant, who had been a campaign aide to President George Bush six years ago when the letter surfaced.

Not only did the videotape show Mr. Clinton making "reasonable explanations" for everything he had said and done, this consultant concluded, but the close-camera cinematic style of the videotape only elicited sympathy. "Even I felt for him," the consultant acknowledged. "It was like the Gestapo."

What the world saw was the full Clinton. He was not just the character that his enemies sought to portray: an angry man trapped by his adversaries, a conjurer of semantic legerdemain trying to slip-side out of testimony in which he may have perjured himself.

Instead, he was the protean president of many personalities — subdued and angry, humiliated and proud, evasive and persuasive — at once reminding the nation why he gets into trouble and also why he so often gets out of it, balancing traits that tend to exasperate his critics with rhetorical skills that make him, amid all his troubles, a sympathetic figure to much of the public.

Mr. Clinton went to his sworn deposition in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case with a state of mind that her lawyers were "taking a wrecking ball to me to see if they could do some damage," he explained at one point.

During another exchange, turning to another violent metaphor, he said he was "determined to walk through the minefield" his enemies had set for him without violating any laws.

He viewed the Jones deposition as "a gotcha game," he said, and in response decided that his goal should be "to be truthful" but "not particularly helpful."

He tried to turn the issue of evasiveness on its head. His careful answers — such as claiming that he could accurately deny an affair with Monica Lewinsky if he was talking in the present tense, since the affair was in the past — were nothing more than an effort to escape the equally manipulative word traps set by his legal adversaries.

"I am not going to answer your trick questions!" he once declared with a tone of self-righteousness.

Whether the grand jury videotape proves to be a long-term boon to the president is still uncertain, of course, but it served at least one positive purpose on the first day: boosting morale among Mr. Clinton's harried supporters and, for perhaps the first time, clearly defining his new line of defense.

INQUIRY: Smoking Gun or Popgun? Viewers Saw What They Were Predisposed to See

Continued from Page 1

much of his energy attacking Mr. Starr, and he all but ignored Ms. Lewinsky, the young woman with whom he acknowledged an "inappropriate" relationship. But in the testimony, recorded earlier, he gave fuller and more convincing voice to his regrets, spoke fondly of Ms. Lewinsky and largely refrained from attacking the costly Starr investigation.

So great is the discrepancy that it raises the question: Why did Mr. Clinton choose not to make a speech that echoed the far more winning tone of his testimony? Had he done so, he might well have put the whole matter to rest, as even his political foes said in the days leading up to the speech.

Perhaps the least "presidential" aspect of the testimony was Mr. Clinton's rigorously legalistic answers — his relentless, at times almost ludicrous, insistence upon defining everyday words in the narrowest possible way, to his own advantage. He applied that technique to

words like "sex," of course, but also to "is" and "alone." That could hurt on Capitol Hill.

Perhaps the best news for the president was Ms. Lewinsky's statement, in supporting documents issued by Mr. Starr's office Monday, that no one had told her to lie or offered her a job as an incentive to keep quiet.

That could help on Capitol Hill. But the votes there are still likely to turn most decisively on the question of whether Mr. Clinton committed perjury in the grand jury. In his testimony, Mr. Clinton said that touching Ms. Lewinsky's breasts or genital area directly would constitute "sexual relations" of the kind he denies having had with her. Her testimony, however, includes graphic accounts of several such incidents.

Representative Charles Canady, Republican of Florida, who sits on the Judiciary Committee, said that he remained convinced that perjury in grand jury testimony remained cause for impeachment, and most of his Republican

colleagues have said the same. Unless some change their minds, a vote to authorize a full-blown impeachment inquiry seems likely.

Whatever happens after that, the Lewinsky matter has lengthened a trail of shattered political illusions and frayed political bonds that began, one might say, 35 years ago this fall when John Kennedy was assassinated. Since then, almost every major American political institution has lost the confidence of a large segment of the public, making governing ever more difficult.

Further assassinations and assassination attempts, the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, the Iran-contra affair and innumerable other events have destroyed the largely trusting relationship that once existed between Washington and the rest of the country. Voter participation has dropped and is still dropping. Only Ronald Reagan among the last seven presidents, and he only to a limited extent, managed to reverse these trends.

Journalism has lost much of its credibility for concentrating too much, in the view of the rank-and-file, on the negative and the scandalous, notably in the Lewinsky, Whitewater and other Clinton controversies. Congress has been pilloried for putting partisanship before patriotism. The independent counsel statute, passed to insure impartiality in the application of the law to people in high places, has come to be seen as a tool of inquisition.

And the occupants of the presidency have frittered away the reputation for truth-telling and square-shooting that constituted one of the precious legacies of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The public may still approve of Bill Clinton's performance as president, it may think he should finish his term, but relatively few people any longer admire him or his values. That will inevitably lower expectations about his successors, at a moment when the nation's expectations of government probity are dangerously low already.

2 Marine Pilots Face Court-Martial For Conspiracy in Gondola Mishap

By Steve Vogel
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A top U.S. Marine commander has ordered that the pilot and navigator of a Marine jet that killed 20 people in an Italian gondola accident face court-martial for obstruction of justice in connection with allegations they conspired to destroy a videotape made during the deadly flight last February.

Captain Richard Ashby, the pilot, and Captain Joseph Schweitzer, the navigator, already face court-martial on charges including involuntary manslaughter and negligent homicide in connection with the Feb. 3 accident, in which the EA-6B Prowler they were flying sliced through the cables holding the gondola and sent all the occupants falling to their deaths.

The new charges say that Captain Ashby and Captain Schweitzer conspired to remove and possibly destroy a videotape from a camera that the crew had brought along in the jet on the day of the accident, according to charges filed by military prosecutors.

Attorneys for the two Marine officers waived their right to hold an Article 32 hearing — the equivalent of a grand jury

— on the obstruction of justice charges. Instead, the defense and prosecution submitted written statements and evidence.

Lieutenant General Peter Pace, commander of U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic, "reviewed all available evidence related to these charges and determined that there is sufficient evidence to warrant trial by general court-martial," according to a statement released Monday by his command.

Had an Article 32 hearing been held, prosecutors were prepared to call a third member of the crew, Captain Chandler Seagraves, who was in the back seat of the aircraft at the time of the accident. Captain Chandler could provide immunized testimony about the missing videotape and other details of the flight, and may do so during the court-martial, according to officials with knowledge of the case.

Captain Seagraves and a fourth crew member, Captain William Rancey II, were cleared earlier this year of any criminal wrongdoing in the accident.

Court-martial on the negligent homicide and involuntary manslaughter charges are scheduled in December for Captain Ashby and January for Captain Schweitzer. If convicted on all charges, each faces up to life in prison.

Britain Seen Easing Quarantine Laws

Reuters

LONDON — Proposals to overturn Britain's stringent anti-rabies quarantine laws for animals and introduce electronic scanners and passports for pets are expected to be announced on Wednesday.

The Agriculture Ministry said a report to be unveiled by Nick Brown, minister for farming, would recommend "the most radical changes to Britain's quarantine laws for almost a century."

The report by an independent group of experts is expected to recommend a partial end to the mandatory six-month quarantine imposed on all animals arriving in Britain, according to press reports.

Animals from designated "low risk" countries would be granted immediate entry after a screen or blood test.

Quarantine periods would remain for animals from countries with rabies problems, including some in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

Britain has not had a rabies scare since 1969 and successive governments have argued that the tough quarantine laws have kept the disease out of the country.

EMU: Central Bank Chief Sees Fall in European Interest Rates

Continued from Page 1

But he said he feared that the movement among the 11 countries adopting the single currency Jan. 1, 1999 would be "a rather forced one, a rather quick one."

Analysts expect interest rates in the currency zone to settle around the current German rate of 3.3 percent.

Mr. Duisenberg said that because interest rates in Europe were "significantly lower" than in the United States there was neither need nor room for coordinated rate action with Washington. Nor, he said, was he convinced that reducing interest rates was the right way to tackle the global economic crisis.

Without referring directly to the IMF warning, Mr. Duisenberg appeared to agree with at least part of it. He said he wished the European Central Bank had been given greater supervisory powers from the beginning.

Mr. Duisenberg said that the crisis in Russia and recession in Asia would slow down growth in the euro region by "some percentage points."

The European Commission predicted in March that the economies of the 11 nations would grow by 3.2 percent next year. A revised estimate from the commission, the executive body of the European Union, is expected next month.

Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the commissioner in charge of monetary affairs, told the parliamentary committee that economic growth in the euro zone was likely to be 2.8 percent next year, about the same as this year.

But Mr. de Silguy said the prospect of the euro had turned the currency zone into a "pole of stability" that was drawing in investments from the rest of the world. The prospect of the single currency, he said, made it unlikely that the EU — and those countries in Eastern and Central Europe that are awaiting membership — would be greatly affected by the crises in Asia, Russia and Latin America.

He said that the reduction of public deficits and debts would free up 120 billion to 150 billion European currency units (\$175.2 million) for investment.

Mr. de Silguy added that volatility on financial markets was out of proportion with economic conditions. But he expressed concern over an 8 percent drop in the value of the dollar against the currencies that will become the euro. He said the dollar's fall was due to political uncertainty in the United States, confidence in the European economies and the expectation of a cut in U.S. interest rates.

Figures released Tuesday by Eurostat, the EU's statistical office, showed a slowing of the economy in the single currency area, which includes Germany,

France, Italy, Spain, Finland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Austria, Ireland and Portugal. It said the economy in the zone grew by 0.1 percent in the second quarter of this year compared with the first quarter. The increase in the previous quarterly period was 0.6 percent.

Eurostat said gross domestic product in the euro zone increased by 1.8 percent in the second quarter from the comparable quarter a year earlier. Corresponding figures were 2 percent for the 15-nation EU as a whole, 3.6 percent for the United States and negative 1.8 percent for Japan.

The president of the European Commission, Jacques Santer, said that although the euro had insulated its prospective members from currency turbulence, he was concerned that a shortage of venture capital could have a dampening effect on the economy.

"The United States has 5,400 companies quoted on Nasdaq, capitalized at around \$2 trillion. We only have 170 companies on the EURO-NM and Easdaq markets," he said, referring to stock exchanges dedicated to smaller companies. "More than one third of U.S. venture capital is devoted to start-ups. In Europe barely 10 percent. Although venture capital is developing in the EU, it is far too slow a rate to significantly dent the employment problems we have."

EUROPE

NATO Raises Pressure on Serbs, Dangling Specter of Kosovo Intervention

By Steven Lee Myers
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The United States and NATO allies have stepped up pressure on President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia to end his military crackdown against separatists in Kosovo.

And officials in Washington and Europe warned this week that the worsening plight of refugees in the province was increasing the possibility of NATO intervention.

There is still no agreement on using force, but NATO and U.S. officials said sentiments within the alliance had clearly shifted in recent weeks.

Defense Secretary William Cohen may press the allies at a NATO defense ministers meeting in Portugal this week to issue an "activation warning," formally advising of the possible execution

of NATO contingency plans, Agence France-Presse quoted the Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon as saying.

"We are in favor of having NATO move to the next stage which is the 'activation warning' to come closer to the use of military force if necessary," Mr. Bacon said.

At the United Nations, Britain and France pushed the Security Council to adopt a resolution calling for a ceasefire in the conflict, which has driven an estimated 250,000 people from their homes in the predominantly ethnic Albanian province.

The draft resolution would invoke the chapter of the UN Charter that makes compliance mandatory, raising the specter of military force, although the resolution does not specifically threaten it.

Nonetheless, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain said the international

community had to prevent a disaster "by any means necessary."

"Our patience with broken promises and phony assurances is exhausted," Mr. Blair said in a speech Monday to the General Assembly, in which he sharply criticized the Serbian security forces. "Continuation of military repression will inevitably lead to a new kind of response."

The United States has maintained that NATO does not need authorization from the United Nations to intervene in Yugoslavia, and the White House's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, reiterated that Monday. But administration officials said that the resolution reflected an emerging consensus among the NATO alliance that only military strikes would persuade Mr. Milosevic.

NATO military commanders have already drawn up plans for a range of military strikes, officials said.

The options range from a limited barrage of cruise missiles, like the U.S. attacks in Afghanistan and Sudan last month, to a series of intensifying aerial bombardments that would begin with attacks on military targets in Kosovo and might lead to strikes throughout Yugoslavia.

NATO commanders have informally begun to ask members what forces they are willing to contribute to a military strike, a U.S. official said.

Although the NATO allies have not yet reached agreement on the use of force, the plans will be a center of debate when Mr. Cohen and other defense ministers from the 16 NATO members meet in Portugal.

"A lot of people think the time has run out on diplomacy," the U.S. official said. As for a decision to use force, the official added, "It's all political will at this point."

Other than dispatching warplanes for a military exercise along the Albanian-Yugoslavia border in June, the Pentagon and many NATO allies have resisted using force in what amounts to a civil war between Serbian forces and ethnic Albanians fighting for the independence of Kosovo from Serbia and Yugoslavia.

After showing signs of restraint when the conflict began in February, the Serbian forces intensified their campaign over the summer and, in recent weeks, began shelling entire villages, not just rebel positions, forcing civilians to flee. With winter approaching, international agencies worry that tens of thousands of refugees without food or shelter could face death.

A senior NATO official said the alliance had badly misread the situation over the summer, making its early warnings about force appear hollow as Mr. Milosevic's forces routed rebel forces

and then attacked civilians. The United States has stepped up diplomatic efforts to forge a resolution that would give Kosovo back some of the autonomy Mr. Milosevic stripped from it in 1989.

The U.S. envoy in Kosovo, Christopher Hill, met with Mr. Milosevic in Belgrade on Monday, but afterward Mr. Milosevic insisted that there was no "humanitarian catastrophe" in Kosovo.

"The phrase 'humanitarian catastrophe' does not correspond to reality and is only a pretext to keep the pressure on Serbia and Yugoslavia," he said.

Serbs Start Another Attack

Serbian security forces mounted a strong attack in Kosovo on Tuesday, pounding villages in the heartland of ethnic Albanian resistance with artillery and tank fire. The Associated Press reported from Velika Reka, Yugoslavia.

Paris Experiment Gives Pockets of Carless Calm

Private Vehicles Restricted in Pilot Plan

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

PARIS — Starting Sunday, Parisians will throng to celebrate the automobile, first at a parade down the Champs-Élysées featuring 100 years of classic cars, and then at the centennial of the Paris auto show, the oldest and one of the biggest exhibitions of motor vehicles in the world.

But on Tuesday, in Paris and nearly three dozen other French cities, the automobile got a cool shoulder.

Under a government pilot program called "A day in town without my car," habitual drivers were pressed to leave their cars at home and rediscover the pleasures of walking, cycling, scootering, riding buses and subways, and breathing cleaner air.

Private cars were banned from parts of the Beaubourg, Marais, Montmartre and Opera districts on the right bank of the Seine and around Boulevard Saint-Germain on the left bank, as well as in an archipelago of pedestrian zones around Paris.

About 60 kilometers (35 miles) of the city's 1,600 kilometers of streets were closed off, creating eerily quiet and empty stretches where the fastest wheels were on rollerblades.

Big cities like Nantes, Tours and Strasbourg took part, but some of the largest, like Lille and Lyon, declined.

La Rochelle staged a car-free day last year and said use of public transport had risen 70 percent.

The brainchild of Dominique Voynet, the French environment minister and France's leading Green, the 14-hour experiment on Tuesday was greeted with varying degrees of approval, impatience, cynicism and outrage. But like it or not, people were forced to comply, and the beastly Parisian traffic was measurably if only fleetingly lighter.

According to Madame Voynet, "the goal is to show that everyone wins in quality of life."

"This is not a day without tomorrow," she said, "but a point of departure for taking back our cities."

Her colleague Jean-Claude Gissot, the Communist transportation minister, warned that "choices had to be made

about the place reserved for cars" in French cities.

But another member of the Socialist-led coalition that governs France, Andre Labarre, derided the carless day as "a useless and costly gimmick" with "zero ecological value."

An automobile executive quoted in Le Parisien newspaper suggested that pedestrians and drivers were being provoked into "making war" with one another.

France's environmental consciousness has lagged behind that of other, more crowded European countries, where new restrictions or discouraging tolls are being imposed on private vehicle traffic in city centers.

Madame Voynet has led the charge here to educate the French public about alternatives to the internal combustion engine, and to press for special driving restrictions on days of heavy pollution.

With "educational" events like this one, national and city leaders are paving the way for a series of permanent restrictions on car traffic set to come into force in the new century.

In Paris, for instance, plans are afoot to ban all vehicles but taxis and buses from the Place de la Concorde, for decades one of the city's most chaotic whirlpools of automobiles.

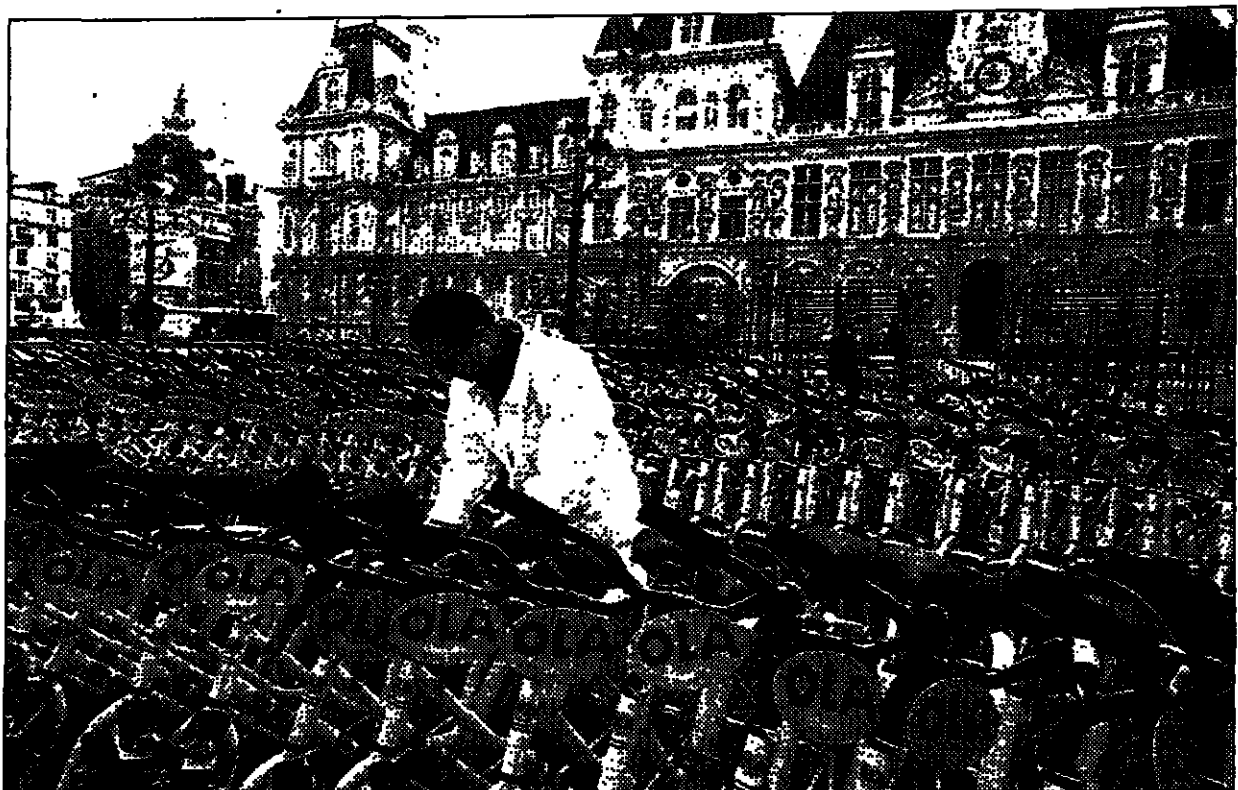
A new metropolitan tramway system, electric vans in the heart of the city, and commuter craft on the Seine are also in the planning stages.

Although they prefer to commute in private cars (69 percent) despite an extensive public transportation network, Parisians appear conditioned for such changes.

According to a Louis Harris poll, 71 percent said automobile traffic had become "intolerable," and 69 percent nationwide said they were ready to close the center cities to cars.

Nearly half told another survey that their health had been adversely affected by the effects of pollution, most of which emanates from vehicular exhaust.

The World Health Organization said respiratory ailments among the 10 million people in metropolitan Paris had increased by 40 percent in the last decade.



A city worker checking bicycles that were lent to Parisians on Tuesday during traffic-restricted hours.

German Social Democrats Hanging On

Reuters

BONN — Gerhard Schroeder kept his lead over Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Tuesday, but his Social Democrats were thrown on the defensive after well-received proposals angered trade unions.

Two opinion polls gave the center-left Social Democrats the edge over Mr. Kohl's conservative Christian Democratic Union, which has been closing the gap in the days leading to Sunday's vote.

An Allensbach Institute poll gave the Social Democrats 41.1 percent, as against 36.1 percent for the Christian Democrats.

A Forsa group survey put the Social Democrats at 41 percent, as against 38 percent for the Kohl camp.

If these results were repeated in five days' time Mr. Schroeder, 54, would be able to forge a coalition government with the ecologist Greens, ending Mr. Kohl's 16-year reign.

The Forsa poll was unchanged from a week ago, but the Allensbach poll put the Social Democrats down 0.3 point and the

Christian Democrats up 0.6 point.

Other polls in the last week have shown Mr. Kohl putting on a final spurt as he crisscrosses the country, saying his record as the West's longest-serving leader qualifies him to take a reunified Germany into the 21st century.

Three polls have shown him lagging the Social Democrats by only two points, down from a 12-point margin after Mr. Schroeder's nomination in March.

A drop in record unemployment and a resurgent economy have buoyed the 68-year-old chancellor, although his campaign has been bedeviled by a debate about whether he should hand over power to his more popular deputy, Wolfgang Schauble, if elected for a record fifth consecutive term.

The Social Democrats' normally smooth campaign machinery, modeled on that of Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, sputtered Tuesday after remarks by a millionaire computer entrepreneur, Jost Stollmann.

Mr. Stollmann, 43, was brought in to help Mr. Schroeder revamp the party

image and target the "new center" of German politics.

On Monday, he said the high cost of the welfare state had become a "prison for the average earner." He called for more private contributions for pensions.

This angered the trade unions, which have put millions of Deutsche marks behind a campaign to promote the Social Democrats' employment and social policies.

Ursula Engelen-Kerfer, deputy chief of the German Trade Union Federation, rejected welfare cutbacks. She acknowledged that Germany's social system needed reform. "But not in a way that would ruin it," she told Deutschlandradio Berlin on Tuesday.

Social Democratic officials called Mr. Stollmann, who would be finance minister in a Schroeder government, a "loose cannon."

"Voters know he's not a Social Democrat, that he doesn't speak for the SPD and isn't campaigning in the traditional way," the campaign manager, Franz Muenterting, said.

ASIA/PACIFIC

BRIEFLY

Suharto Questioned on Wealth

JAKARTA — The Indonesian government has questioned former President Suharto about his personal wealth and allegations that he has billions of dollars stashed in overseas bank accounts.

Officials leading the investigation said on Tuesday that Mr. Suharto would soon provide the attorney general's office with a report of his wealth to help "clarify" media reports that estimate the former president's worth at nearly \$40 billion. Mr. Suharto has denied having any bank accounts or shareholdings overseas. (NYT)

Federal Rule Sought for Bihar

NEW DELHI — The Indian government on Tuesday recommended the imposition of federal rule in the eastern state of Bihar, triggering a storm of protest from opposition parties.

Governor Sunder Singh Bhandari of Bihar had reported that federal intervention was needed in the state because law and order had broken down. (Reuters)

China Hits U.S.-Japan Talks

BEIJING — China on Tuesday criticized Japan and the United States over a proposed defense system to shield Japan from a ballistic missile attack, warning that such plans could touch off a regional arms race. U.S. and Japanese officials agreed last weekend to step up research into an anti-missile system after North Korea last month lobbed a multistage rocket over Japan. (Reuters)

Taiwan Negotiator in Beijing

BEIJING — Taiwan's top negotiator with China, Shi Hwei-yow, flew into Beijing on Tuesday on what he called a goodwill visit to pave the way for the highest level meeting between the two rivals in five years. Beijing immediately urged Taiwan to accept political negotiations aimed at reunification.

Taiwan's Nationalist rulers have resisted such negotiations, saying reunification was possible only if the Communists gave up their monopoly on power and embrace democracy. (Reuters)

Cambodian Rivals Set Talks on Cooperation

Reuters

SIEM REAP, Cambodia — The leaders of Cambodia's rival parties met Tuesday for the first time since the contested election in July and agreed to hold talks on the formation of a new government, party officials said.

The party leaders also agreed that the new National Assembly would convene Thursday.

The four-hour meeting Tuesday in the northern town of Siem Reap marked the first time the former co-prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, had met Hun Sen, the co-prime minister who ousted him in July last year, since shortly before Mr. Hun Sen's coup.

"It was a very good summit," Prince Ranariddh said after the talks.

He said that all parties would "start negotiations about the formation of a new government."

"I think definitely we have made progress instead of stalemate," he said. "In spite of remaining problems, we have agreed to go forward."

"But," he added, "we still have a long way to go." After the talks the party leaders, including former Finance Minister Sam Rainsy, whose party came third in the July 26 election, lined up with the constitutional monarch, King Norodom Sihanouk, Prince Ranariddh's father, who presided over the meeting.

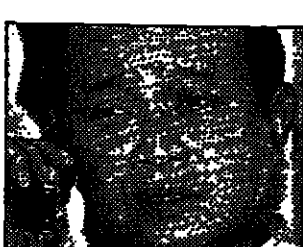
Mr. Hun Sen, whose ruling party won the vote, turned to his bitter critic Mr. Sam Rainsy and shook his hand and patted him on the shoulder.

Prince Ranariddh and Mr. Sam Rainsy rejected Mr. Hun Sen's election victory, saying his party won through fraud and intimidation.

The opposition mounted more than three weeks of protests against the election but last week, after coming under mounting pressure from the king and the international community, they called off the demonstrations and agreed to talks.

They also dropped a threat to boycott Parliament after clashes between their supporters and the police in which two protesters were killed.

Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party does not have the two-thirds of seats necessary to form a government alone.



Prince Norodom Ranariddh, on phone Tuesday after talks in Siem Reap.

NASA Asks Aid for Russia on New Station

By William J. Broad
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Worried that trouble in Moscow is threatening its own dreams, NASA wants to spend up to \$660 million over five years to bail out its Russian partner in building a planned international space station, according to agency officials.

Key members of Congress immediately faulted the proposal as too expensive, clouding the fate of the biggest science project of all time. But NASA officials argued that the American and Russian programs were now linked so intimately that the Russian effort must be preserved lest the American space program suffer.

In just two months, orbital construction is to start on the sprawling outpost for astronauts, which is expected to cost more than \$40 billion. But even if the new bailout goes through and keeps the Russians afloat, the station project is facing another round of construction delays next year because of Russia's problems in building a key part. The lag in that work will also have costly repercussions for America's fleet of space shuttles, which are to carry station elements into orbit.

Already, past delays have cut the flight rate of the winged spaceships to unusually low levels, and NASA officials

are scrambling to find new shuttle payloads to compensate for looming gaps in outpost construction.

Joseph Rotherberg, associate administrator for space flight at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said that the new bid to save the Russians and the beleaguered outpost was likely to cost about \$1.2 billion, including the new money for the Russians as well as about \$540 million in new American work such as modifying the shuttles so they can do more station lifting.

"This is a plan," he said of the Russia aid, adding that "no commitment from anybody" to provide new funds had been made.

Mr. Rotherberg said that the space agency had already squeezed its own \$13.6 billion budget as far as possible to find emergency funds for the outpost's rescue, and that it was eager for new money.

Overall, he said, NASA wants to pay the Russians \$60 million this fiscal year for new goods and services and then up to \$150 million a year over the next four years as an aid to station construction.

The \$1.2 billion in emergency money, Mr. Rotherberg said, was much cheaper than losing Moscow's help altogether.

"Any alternative you look at without the Russians would hit the program hard," he said. Their absence would

again, this time promising to retry him, as is required under French law. The French court is to consider the release request next Tuesday, while the extradition was not expected to be ruled on for several weeks, to allow Mr. Einhorn's lawyers to study the request.

Mr. Einhorn was being held in a prison in Gradiignan, a Bordeaux suburb. He was arrested Sunday when he reported to a local police station, as he is required to do every week under terms of his previous release, according to a secretary for Mr. Delthil. Mr. Einhorn fled America in 1981 and lived under an alias in France before he was captured in June 1997.

French Rearrest Fugitive Sought by U.S.

The Associated Press

BORDEAUX — Ira Einhorn, a longtime American fugitive, sought his release Tuesday after the French police arrested him again on another bid by the U.S. authorities to have him extradited to face a new murder trial.

Mr. Einhorn, once an anti-war and New Age evangelist, was arrested again Sunday night, nine months after a French judge refused to expel him to the United States, where he has been convicted of murdering a former girlfriend, Helen Maddux, in 1977.

Officials in Pennsylvania have requested Mr. Einhorn's extradition

INTERNATIONAL

BRIEFLY

2 Italian Tourists
Murdered in Cuba

MEXICO CITY — Two Italian tourists visiting Cuba were shot and killed early last week on a beach outside Havana, the Italian Embassy here said.

The names of the victims have not been made public. Both appeared to be in their 30s.

The victims, both men, were apparently killed on Sept. 14, reportedly by guns. Homicide with guns is very rare in Cuba. (AP)

Forces Took Town,
Congo Rebels Say

GOMA, Congo — Congolese rebels fighting to oust President Laurent Kabila have captured the eastern town of Kamunga in the South Kivu region, rebel officials said.

The rebel commander, Jean-Pierre Ondekane, said his forces were involved in heavy fighting on Friday when they succeeded in overrunning the town.

He said that his advancing forces captured 10 Sudanese soldiers who had been serving on the side of Mr. Kabila.

The government, in its version of events, said that its troops and allies had attacked an airport north of Bukavu. Congolese television said that a large rebel aircraft, which was about to take off, was hit on the runway. (AP)

12 More Algerians
Die in Terrorism

ALGIERS — Bomb explosions and clashes between the army and Muslim militants across Algeria have left 12 people dead and 20 wounded, government officials said Tuesday.

The resurgence of violence this month came as troops carried out new sweeps against the militants, reportedly encircling hundreds of fighters belonging to the Armed Islamic Group.

A bomb exploded near a military truck in Saida, 400 kilometers (240 miles) southwest of Algiers, killing two soldiers and wounding four civilians, officials said.

The terror stems from cancellation of an election that Islamic forces seemed likely to win. (AP)

South Africa Suppressing
Long Uprising in Lesotho

The Associated Press

MASERU, Lesotho — South African troops rumbled into this tiny mountain kingdom at dawn Tuesday to quell weeks of anarchy and took control of key sites amid heavy fighting, the military command in Pretoria said.

Battles with rebellious Lesotho soldiers continued into the day. At least three South African soldiers were killed and 11 were lightly wounded, the military said.

Protesters firebombed government buildings, looters rampaged through central Maseru and cars with South African license plates were being stoned following the intervention.

Shopping centers were gutted by fire, and smoke drifted from many parts of the capital city, which is just inside the border with South Africa.

The military said the besieged Lesotho government had called for intervention by the Southern African Development Community, which South Africa leads.

"The aim of the intervention is to restore stability as quickly as possible and to withdraw from the kingdom of Lesotho as soon as this has been achieved," the military said.

The action, post-apartheid South Africa's first major military intervention, follows weeks of opposition party demonstrations over allegations of election-rigging and an army rebellion that had effectively paralyzed the government. South African troops came in support of the government, which had lost control of the army.

A heavy firefight raged Tuesday at a military barracks in the airport area. South African and Lesotho troops traded automatic rifle fire, and mortar explosions were heard. Fifteen armored vehicles equipped with cannon came to reinforce the South Africans.

Officials said the force had secured Lesotho military headquarters, the main air force base, central business district and the neighborhood where most diplomats and cabinet members live.

South African troops met strong resistance in the morning at the royal palace, the Katse Dam in the central part of the country and two military bases, said a South African military spokeswoman, Lieutenant Colonel Laverne Machine of the air force.

King Letsie III was safe and being protected by South African troops, Colonel Machine said.

Enemy of Liberia's President
Gets Asylum in U.S. Embassy

Reuters

MONROVIA, Liberia — The U.S. Embassy in Liberia disclosed Tuesday that Roosevelt Johnson, the ethnic Krahn who was a civil war enemy of President Charles Taylor, had taken refuge there.

The Americans cautioned Mr. Taylor not to allow a planned street protest outside the embassy.

Diplomats said that Mr. Johnson, who is wanted by Mr. Taylor's government to face treason charges, was in the embassy compound with some of his supporters.

Witnesses said that the diplomatic quarter was tense, with schools closed.

The embassy is at the edge of the city center and was the scene of fighting in 1996 during the final phase of the civil war.

"We have instructions from our government not to hand him or the others over at the moment," an embassy official said. "Negotiations are continuing, and he is being held with some other people in a confined area."

Diplomats said Mr. Johnson pushed his way into the embassy after soldiers opened fire at the embassy entrance on Saturday. At least three of Mr. Johnson's men were killed, including a close aide, Madison Wion. Two U.S. security personnel were wounded.

The pro-Taylor Citizens Action Committee had announced plans to demonstrate outside the embassy on Wednesday.

The American diplomats said they were aware of that plan, and warned that it would be unwise and unhelpful while negotiations were under way.

"If a permit is provided for the demonstration, we would hold the government responsible for any consequences," an embassy aide said, adding that security was being significantly increased at the compound.

Fighting broke out late Friday after Mr. Taylor, a former warlord who won power in elections last year, moved to arrest Mr. Johnson and other rivals from the civil war, which took the lives of more than 150,000 people.

BOOKS

FOR KINGS AND
PLANETS

By Ethan Canin. 335 pages.
\$24.95. Random House.

Reviewed by Christopher
Lehmann-Haupt

THE story told in Ethan Canin's shimmering new novel, "For Kings and Planets," is deceptively familiar. Orno Tarcher, the son of a stolid Missouri family, arrives as a freshman at Columbia University in the fall of 1974 and is dazzled — by New York City, by his fellow students, by his teachers and particularly by his classmate and new friend, Marshall Emerson, the brilliant son of two Columbia professors so well-connected socially that as Orno tells his parents:

"There's letters on his wall from John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. His mother talks on the phone with Margaret Mead. They're friends with artists and writers."

But by the end Orno has discovered that brilliance and connections are meaningless, particularly when measured by his father's simple standard that "all a man ever has is himself."

An almost banal tale based on nearly trite verities then. But in Canin's luminous prose, the story reads as if told for the first time.

The characters in "For Kings and Planets" seem freshly original. Orno moves haltingly under the weight of his insecurity and lack of belief in himself, yet his integrity is deep, he hungers for experience and he is determined to make up for his intellectual shortcomings by outworking everyone else.

He feels particularly over-matched by his unlikely new friend, Marshall, who doesn't even have to attend classes because, driven by his demanding father, he has already read practically everything, and, thanks to his photographic memory, he can score 100 on any test he takes.

Orno doesn't know what to make of Marshall, who praises him for his straightforwardness, invites him into his artistic circle, takes him home to meet his parents and younger sister. Simone, charms him with brilliantly told stories of his childhood in Istanbul and then suddenly appears to drop him.

Only when Marshall calls

on Orno to rescue him during a suicide attempt do we begin to sense the hollowiness behind Marshall's dazzling facade. "Things are difficult for Marshall," Simone tells Orno in the hospital. Marshall's mother adds: "We must be ready for the worst. We must harden our hearts."

But Orno remains loyal even after Marshall drops out of Columbia, moves to Los Angeles to write a novel and begins to rise as a television scriptwriter and producer.

Orno puts up with Marshall's disapproval of his settling for dental school after failing to get into any medical school. ("My father could get you into medical school by picking up the phone," Marshall assures him. "It would take him 10 minutes, two phone calls.") He becomes inextricably involved with Marshall's family when he and Simone fall in love. And he falls into the path of Marshall's seemingly inevitable self-destruction.

How this plays itself out is too suspenseful and surprising even to be hinted at here. But Canin makes the reader ache and thrill with Orno's experience of it. Particularly he captures the moods of the story's locales, the flatness of Orno's home in Missouri, the imperial architecture of New York City, the sand and salt of Cape Cod, where the Emersons own a cottage in Woods Hole, and "the bantam vistas truncated by woody hills" of inland Maine, where Orno sets up his dental practice.

When Orno arrives at Columbia he gives some of Marshall's friends his earnest view "that each generation improved upon the mistakes of the last." They laugh at him, saying it is "a Midwestern outlook." Orno joins in

their laughter, but it is a view he strives to hold on to.

Near the end of the novel, after all he goes through with the Emersons, he sees a pack of gulls flocking over the corpse of a fish and watches their attack. "They circled and dived, baffling one another with their wings as they hovered, then dropped like stones onto the carcass. He understood that this was the normal course of the world's savagery; but even at this moment, despite everything, he understood that at the core of him he felt humans were different."

He concludes: "Hardship made character; that was the paradox. Character to him was kindness and diligence and a certain social egalitarianism that was fundamental to society, and he still believed somehow that all three were instinctive. This, perhaps, was his unbending core."

What keeps him in touch with this core is the down-to-earthness that enables him to settle on dentistry as his calling. As he writes to Marshall, "I'm beginning to relax enough to enjoy it, and I see that there is something adamant and useful and (I'll say it) graceful about teeth."

Earlier he has written to Marshall: "Yes, I have learned the names of the teeth, but they are probably not what you had hoped for, not named for kings or planets. They are merely numbers."

In his novel, Canin illuminates both these realms, those of metaphor and literalism. Surprisingly in a world where tongues are eloquent, what the heart can grasp prevails. "For Kings and Planets" leaves you wounded and healed.

New York Times Service

BEST SELLERS

The New York Times		
This list is based on reports from more than 1,000 bookstores throughout the United States. Weeks on the list are not necessarily consecutive.		
FICTION		
Book	Last Week	Weeks on List
1 RAINBOW SIX by Tom Clancy	1	5
2 TELL ME YOUR DREAMS by Sidney Sheldon	2	2
3 I KNOW THIS MUCH IS TRUE by Sally Lunby	3	12
4 THE FIRST WIGGLE by Tom Harkman	4	6
5 NO SAFE PLACE by Richard North Patterson	10	2
6 MEMOIRS OF A GENTLEMAN by Arthur Golden	5	43
7 SUMMER SISTERS by Julia Blum	6	16
8 MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE by Nicholas Sparks	8	22
9 POINT OF ORIGIN by Patricia Cornwell	7	6
10 BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY by Helen Fielding	9	14
11 A WIDOW FOR ONE YEAR by John Irving	12	19
12 A NIGHT WITHOUT ARMOR by Jewel Kitcher	11	9
13 VIEW OF THE FUTURE by Timothy Zahn	1	1
14 THE STREET LAWYER by John Grisham	27	1
15 SHOGUN by Hilary Mantel	14	4
NONFICTION		
1 THE DAY DIANA DIED by Christopher Anderson	1	4
2 TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE by Mitch Albom	2	48
3 A PRIVATE LIAR by 47		
4 THE DEATH OF OUTRAGE by William I. Jones	1	2
5 ANGELA'S ASHES by Frank McCourt	7	105
6 A WALK IN THE WOODS by Bill Brown	5	15
7 THE MILLIONAIRE NEXT DOOR by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko	4	87
8 CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD Book 1 by Neale Donald Walsch	8	92
9 DIANA: Princess of a Promise by Joyce Fowler and Judy Wale	14	2
10 A MONK SWIMMING by Malachy McCourt	9	14
11 WE ARE OUR MOTHERS DAUGHTERS by Cole Kugler	12	20
12 THE GIFT OF THE JEWS by Thomas Cahill	11	25
13 THE ROARING 2000s by Harry S. Dent Jr.	16	1
14 CITIZEN SOLDIER by Stephen E. Ambrose	10	25
15 TITAN by Ron Chernow	11	16
ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISCELLANEOUS		
1 SUGAR BUSTERS by H. Leighton Stevens et al.	1	19
2 THE 4 STEPS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM by Steve Ostrum	2	22
3 MEN ARE FROM MARS WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS by John Gray	3	235
4 EAT RIGHT & YOUR TYPE by Peter D'Adamo	4	7

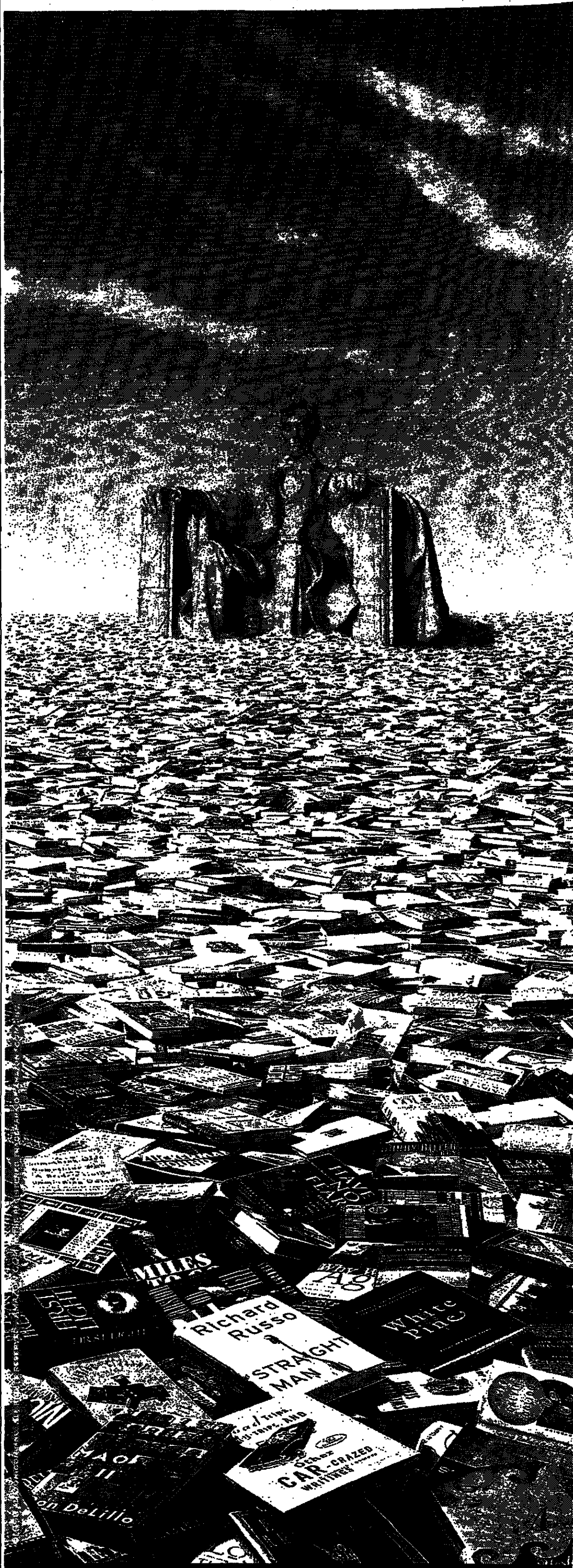
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INTERNATIONAL

Malaysia Unrest: 'We Are Prepared to Handle It'

Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia has led his country down an unorthodox road in his quest for economic recovery, shutting his country off from global currency markets. He also dismissed his appointed successor, Anwar Ibrahim, leading to a large-scale street demonstration. Mr. Mahathir spoke with Thomas Fuller of the International Herald Tribune on Tuesday.

Q. For the first time in decades, there have been large numbers of protesters on the streets of Kuala Lumpur, clashing with police and in some cases calling for your resignation. What does this mean for Malaysia and your premiership?

A. We have always maintained that one of the most attractive things about Malaysia for foreign investors is the political stability. I'm quite sure what has happened is going to be interpreted by foreigners as meaning there is no political stability. But it is not something that is as violent as seen in other countries and we are quite prepared to handle it.

Q. This all happened during the Commonwealth Games, and Queen Elizabeth II was here. With hindsight was Mr. Anwar's ouster mistimed?

A. I didn't even think about the timing. I thought that he needed to be removed and I removed him.

Q & A / Mahathir bin Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia

Q. What effect did Suharto's stepping down have on you?

A. I think he [Anwar] was much more influenced with Suharto's stepping down than I am. He thinks that because Suharto had to step down it follows that I could be subjected to the same pressures. But my situation is quite different. I'm here actually by popular support—at least I think so. From the reception I get wherever I go, there is no animosity toward me.

Q. Following Mr. Anwar's ouster, you are now prime minister, finance minister and home minister. Isn't that putting too many eggs in one basket?

A. I hope it will not be for too long. Contrary to the usual belief that I am a dictator, I actually work as a team.

Q. You said before Mr. Anwar was removed that you would remain prime minister as long as it took to fix the economy. Now, without an appointed successor, will you remain in power longer?

A. Slightly longer perhaps until I can find a successor.

Q. Can we expect a larger crackdown beyond those detained on Monday?

A. I don't think so. It all depends on how violent they are. If they are violent

and they do things like looting or breaking shop windows, the police have to put a stop to that. And to put a stop to violence you cannot use kid-glove methods. You have to be a little bit rough. The police have been very restrained. In other countries they would be beaten.

Q. Anwar had a lot of friends and supporters. Do you think there might be an electoral backlash to this?

A. There may be, but we think that we can handle it. Our party has got very popular support. It is a mass-based party. We've got 2.4 million members and, by and large, they are loyal to the party.

Q. Will you call elections soon?

A. I have a lot of time to mull over these things. I'll think about it.

Q. What would you look for in a successor?

A. An honest man who is capable. Not a genius. I am not expecting a fair copy of myself. ... This is a country that depends so much on trade, and any leader of the country must understand economics.

Q. One year ago in Hong Kong, you were jeered when you proposed a ban on currency trading. [The hedge fund pioneer] George Soros called you a menace

to your own country. Since then a lot of people have expressed the need for some sort of control over the international capital flows. Do you feel vindicated?

A. Yes, to a certain extent. But that is not too important to me. What is important is whether my views are taken seriously now for people to act. The world should recognize the truth.

Q. What should the world do? Is there a Mahathir Manifesto on currency trading?

A. In Hong Kong I have already said we need to have some rules or regulations about currency trading. That it should be more open. Currency trading is unnecessary. You should exchange currency for the purpose of financing trade. But you should not trade in currencies as a commodity. Currencies have got no intrinsic value.

Q. But can you stop currency trading altogether? Is a fixed-exchange rate system viable?

A. You had it before and the world was growing at a faster rate. People say, "Well, that is out of date." An old idea is not necessarily bad simply because it is old. We should re-examine it.



Will Mr. Mahathir call elections soon? "I have a lot of time to mull over these things. I'll think about it."

MALAYSIA: Ex-Deputy Assailed

Continued from Page 1

With 10 television cameras rolling, Mr. Mahathir told the Tuesday press conference that he had been very reluctant to believe the charges of sodomy when he first heard them several years ago. He decided two months ago to hold his own investigation into the matter, bringing in witnesses and some of Mr. Anwar's alleged sexual partners.

"I told them, 'Look, if you're forced into making confessions please tell me, I will protect you,'" Mr. Mahathir said. "But they said, 'No we were not forced by the police. We are telling the truth,' and several of them said this man is not fit to become a leader," Mr. Mahathir said.

Both Mr. Anwar's adopted brother and a former speechwriter pleaded guilty Saturday to being sodomized by Mr. Anwar. The prime minister said Tuesday that he felt awkward airing the allegations to the public.

"We are a very conservative society," he said. "We don't talk about these things."

"You know the effect of Clinton's admission of having Lewinsky having oral sex and it is published all over," he said. "Children are reading about it."

In an hour-long interview with the International Herald Tribune, Mr. Mahathir also touched on Malaysia's relations with Singapore as well as his search for a new deputy.

And, two weeks before the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Washington, he offered his case for a global system of controls on international capital flows.

Malaysia became the first Southeast Asian nation to clamp down on currency trading earlier this year, rejecting the free market and insulating itself from East Asia's economic crisis.

The move has been closely followed by economists around the world as well as the leaders of other countries also beset by economic turmoil.

"Currency trading is unnecessary," Mr. Mahathir said. "You should exchange currency for the purpose of financing trade."

Pressure on Anwar's Wife

Mr. Anwar's wife, Azizah, complained of police harassment Tuesday after troops surrounded her house and accused the government of being evasive about the charges against her husband. The Associated Press reported from Kuala Lumpur.

She said that neither she nor Mr. Anwar's lawyers had been allowed to meet him since his arrest Sunday.

The police have also threatened her with arrest for suggesting that her husband had been injected with the HIV virus while in police detention.

She told reporters that the police had not responded to repeated requests by lawyers and Mr. Anwar's family for information.

Anwar's Wife Gets Ready to Take Up His Banner

She Will Follow Other Asian Women Who've Stepped In for Men



Azizah Ismail, the wife of Anwar Ibrahim, telling reporters of her plans Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur.

KUALA LUMPUR — Azizah Ismail, the soft-spoken wife of the former finance minister Anwar Ibrahim, was poised Tuesday to join a long line of Asian women who have jumped into the fray after their men were brought down by political enemies.

The list includes Corazon Aquino of the Philippines, Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Sonia Gandhi of India, Chandrika Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka and Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, just in the last two decades.

Like Mrs. Azizah, 46, they came out of the shadows when their husbands — or, in Mrs. Bhutto's and Mrs. Hasina's cases, their fathers — were claimed by long imprisonment or violent death.

Mrs. Azizah plans to follow in her sisters' path with one exception — she is determined that her husband will live.

Asked if she intended to lead Mr. Anwar's movement now that her husband had been arrested, Mrs. Azizah said this week: "Yes, my dignity, like Mrs. Gandhi said, is to follow my husband. Somebody has to carry on the fight."

She was referring to Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of the assassinated former Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, who took over as president of India's Congress party earlier this year.

Mrs. Azizah stayed in the background when she accompanied her husband on his Reformasi (Reform) crusade of the nation last week. But since he was arrested, she has found a new, stronger voice.

Friends say they have been surprised at how forceful her speeches have been.

"I was very surprised to hear her speak in such a powerful voice," one friend said.

"Until then I had always thought of her as soft spoken."

The word that comes up time and time again when Malaysians talk about Mrs. Azizah is "Angel."

Taxi drivers use the word. Hard-bitten local journalists say it with reverence. Hotel staff say it in hushed tones.

Nearly always dressed in the religious white of devout Muslims, the mother of six children, a background of helping the blind as a foreign-trained eye doctor and with a serene bearing, Mrs. Azizah is a political image maker's dream.

The couple married in 1980 and have five daughters and one son.

Rumors at the time said the unlikely union of the one-time student activist, Mr. Anwar, and the daughter of a highly respected and well-off Malaysian doctor was arranged by a Mahathir sister-in-

law at a time when the two politicians were close.

On the night of Mr. Anwar's dismissal, Mrs. Azizah went alone to see Mahathir's wife, who lives nearby, to say good-bye and to ask justice for her man, who is accused of sex and other crimes.

A judge last weekend found an adopted brother of Mr. Anwar and a speech writer for him guilty of allowing Mr. Anwar to sodomize them.

Mr. Anwar has denied the accusations.

Mrs. Azizah rejects comparisons with Hillary Clinton, who has gone through her own pain over the U.S. president's sex life.

"Why should I be compared to Hillary Clinton?" she asked a rally at her home days before Mr. Anwar's arrest.

"Bill Clinton is not at all like Anwar Ibrahim. I know these are lies about my husband fabricated to topple him."

There is no doubting she has a steadiness of hand and nerves of steel from her achievement in passing the eye doctors' course at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin.

She returned to Kuala Lumpur to practice her skill and worked at a government teaching hospital before giving up her career to care for her children.

Russia Again Resists Use of Force to Help Kosovars

By Barbara Crossette

New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Russia is opposed to any efforts to use outside force to end the war in Kosovo, Moscow's new foreign minister stressed Tuesday in his first speech to world leaders.

The minister, Igor Ivanov, also warned against a military solution in Iraq, and raised a possibility that Russia would argue in a coming Security Council debate that the Iraqis were no longer a threat to their neighbors and, therefore, deserved some relief from economic

sanctions. Both Iraq, which has ended most cooperation with United Nations arms inspectors, and Kosovo, the subject of a French and British proposed resolution that would authorize the use of NATO forces, are urgent matters before the Security Council.

Diplomats involved in the negotiations surrounding the Kosovo resolution are focused on how to get the measure through the Council without provoking a Russian veto.

Mr. Ivanov is a former deputy to Yevgeni Primakov, former foreign minister and now the prime minister, who some Western diplomats expect to take a con-

sistently harder line on foreign policy issues of importance to Moscow.

Mr. Primakov, a specialist on the Arab world, has had a long relationship with Iraq, where the Russians consider themselves indispensable players and go-between with Iraq's enemies.

On Kosovo, Russians have long been opposed to intervention by NATO even as the Serbian Army of President Slobodan Milosevic carries out a violent campaign against ethnic Albanian separatists.

In his speech Tuesday to the 53rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Ivanov — a 53-year-old

career Foreign Ministry official who is regarded as a loyal Primakov associate — spoke out generally against military solutions and seemed to be indirectly criticizing the United States for usurping the power of the United Nations.

"What I have in mind are attempts to undercut the Charter — stipulated powers of the Security Council to use coercive measures," he said. "We must not allow creation of a precedent involving the use of military power in a crisis without the support of the Security Council."

Narrowing in on Kosovo, Mr. Ivanov said that "political logic must prevail" in solving the civil conflict.

American officials agree that they would prefer a political solution, but take the position that Washington and NATO have the authority to use force without a Security Council resolution.

"The use of power to resolve the Kosovo conflict might lead to a big war with unpredictable consequences for the Balkan region and Europe at large," Mr. Ivanov said.

In his speech, he went out of his way to praise regional organizations that are useful in problem-solving, mentioning the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States but conspicuously leaving out NATO.

Turning to Iraq, Mr. Ivanov said that Russia was concerned about rising tensions in the region, where Iraq and Afghanistan are now armed against each other over a common border.

In this context, the Russian foreign minister called for a new look at the embargo that has crippled Iraq since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

"No doubt, Iraq must fully travel its part of the road, resume full cooperation with the United Nations Special Commission and the IAEA and implement relevant Security Council resolutions," he said.

"On the other hand, the Security Council must adequately assess the situation related to the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and answer the question whether or that country still poses a threat to regional and international security after seven years of work carried out there by UN inspectors."

Mr. Ivanov also made a strong plea to India and Pakistan, without naming them, to adhere to treaties banning the testing and spread of nuclear weapons and arms technology.

He repeated Mr. Primakov's pledge to press the lower house of the Russian Parliament for ratification of the START-2 arms treaty with the United States.

Until that arms-reduction pact is ratified, there is little likelihood of opening new talks on further cuts in the two nations' arsenals.



Igor Ivanov of Russia with Madeleine Albright, meeting in New York.

IRAN: Khatami Denies 'Opening' to U.S.

Continued from Page 1

The press conference followed Mr. Khatami's address Monday to the United Nations General Assembly in which he tried to woo his global audience with talk of how freedom-loving and law-abiding Iran is these days and asked for help in resolving the crisis in neighboring Afghanistan.

In his first address to the General Assembly — and his first trip to the United States — Mr. Khatami quoted from the New Testament, the Koran and 13th-century Iranian poetry in arguing in philosophical language that dialogue is the key to understanding among nations.

What was remarkable about the speech is what it did not say.

There was no criticism of the United States. Indeed, the only direct reference to the United States was an expression of confidence that "powerful nations, such as the American people," will reject the idea that one nation should aim to rule the world as its only superpower.

There was much milder criticism of Israel than usual, and certainly no call to free Jerusalem from Israeli rule and no attack of the 1992 peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

And there was no threat to invade Afghanistan, despite the presence of 200,000 Iranian troops on the Afghan border and Iran's relentless condemnation of the repression of Afghanistan under the rule of the militant Taliban movement.

In fact, Mr. Khatami said, "There is no military solution to that country's predicament."

The president branded the recent killing of nine Iranian diplomats and a journalist by the Sunni Muslim Taliban part of a pattern of genocide against Shiite Muslims and called on the United Nations to bring all the warring parties into negotiations.

After Mr. Khatami's speech and an eight-country meeting on Afghanistan

sponsored by the United Nations that included the United States and Iran, James Rubin, the State Department spokesman, said that Washington was encouraged by Mr. Khatami and other Iranian officials who said they wanted a peaceful resolution to the Afghan crisis.

Wearing a tan clerical robe, a sheer black cloak and the black turban that signifies he is a descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, Mr. Khatami seemed more eager to present himself as a global philosopher than a politician with an agenda for change.

"Allow me to speak here as a man from the East, the origin of brilliant civilizations and the birthplace of Divine Prophets: Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Mohammed, peace be upon them all," he said. "I come from the noble land of Iran, representing a great and renowned nation, famous for its age-old civilization as well as its distinguished contribution to the founding and expansion of the Islamic civilization."

As he spoke, a woman burst past guards into the General Assembly hall and screamed that Mr. Khatami was a murderer and torturer. The woman, identified by UN officials as Laila Jazayeri, a 37-year-old Iranian, was subdued by the UN security police, who handcuffed her and strapped her to a wheelchair before turning her over to the New York City police.

A U.S.-Iran Meeting That Almost Was

New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — What was expected to be the first high-level meeting in two decades between Iran and the United States did not occur because the foreign minister of Iran did not show up at a conference on Afghanistan, attended by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

It was only after the conference on Monday that the Iranians explained why

Saudis Withdraw Kabul Diplomat

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia announced Tuesday that it had recalled its chargé d'affaires from Kabul and demanded the departure of the Afghanistani chargé d'affaires from Riyadh, according to the official press agency SPA.

A statement quoted by SPA said that "the minister of foreign affairs [the Afghanistani chargé d'affaires in Riyadh] of the immediate recall of the Saudi chargé d'affaires in Afghanistan. The Afghan chargé d'affaires in Riyadh has also been asked to leave the kingdom."

Saudi Arabia is one of only three nations, along with Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates, that recognizes the Islamic Taliban militia. There was no explanation for the move.

A block away from the United Nations, about 2,000 demonstrators representing the U.S.-based National Council of Resistance of Iran protested against Mr. Khatami's visit and demanded the overthrow of the Tehran government.

The last time an Iranian president addressed the General Assembly was in 1987, at the height of Iran's eight-year war with Iraq.

The foreign minister, Kamal Kharazi, had been represented at the session by one of his deputies.

The foreign minister was said to be accompanying the president of Iran, Mohammed Khatami, on his official rounds.

Mrs. Albright's spokeswoman, James Rubin, rejected a suggestion that the secretary of state had been snubbed by the Iranians. "This was not a U.S.-Iranian meeting," Mr. Rubin said.

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NATIONAL DAY OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

The Fruits of Peace and Progress

The Kingdom has balanced cultural, structural and social progress and the upholding of religious and moral values in its march to development.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was established by King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al-Faisal Al-Saud on Sept. 23, 1932. National Day, observed every year upon the anniversary of the event, is a time to celebrate the development of the Kingdom over the past six decades and to look forward to its continuing growth and success.

King Abdulaziz reigned for 21 years and established the pillars of peace and stability and laid the foundation of reform and development. After his death in 1953, his sons took on the responsibility of governing the state. King Saud (1953-1964), King Faisal (1964-1975) and King Khaled (1975-1982) followed in the

footsteps of King Abdulaziz, observing Islamic tenets and continuing the construction and development of the country. Under their leadership, Saudi Arabia enjoyed great progress as the fruits of peace and development were extended to each and every corner of the Kingdom.

After the death of King Khaled in 1982, the ruling family and the Saudi people agreed that Crown Prince Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud should succeed King Khaled. Prince Abdulaziz bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud was named crown prince.

King Fahd introduced a qualitative shift in the pattern of government by introducing four new statutes: the Basic Law of Governance, the Law of the Provinces, the Law of the

Consultative Council and the Law of the Cabinet. The statutes limited the executive and legislative powers to four-year terms to benefit young and qualified Saudis and to encourage their participation in the country's development.

In 1995-96, the Kingdom started its sixth five-year plan for comprehensive economic and social development. The first five-year plan, which began in 1970-71, focused on the building of highways, ports, airports and other infrastructure and services to facilitate the implementation of major projects under later plans. Government expenditure for projects in the plans was doubled with the increased oil revenue. Total spending on implementing development

plans reached 4.2 trillion riyals (\$1.1 trillion) by 1996, the end of the first year of the sixth five-year plan.

Saudi Arabia's march to development, guided by Islamic teachings and values, enabled the Kingdom to keep a balance between cultural, structural and social progress and the upholding of religious and moral values.

The Kingdom has made great progress in establishing and diversifying the economic base and strengthening productive capacities in other sectors in order to minimize dependence on oil revenues.

According to the Ministry of Planning, total production other than oil increased fourfold during the period 1970-1995. The rate of contribution of sec-

tors other than oil in total domestic production increased from 53 percent to 57 percent over the period. The rate of contributions of non-oil revenues to total government revenues increased from 16 percent to 22 percent.

During the same period, private sector contribution to domestic production reached 45 percent, up from 21 percent. The private sector accounted for 72 percent of production of non-oil items by 1996. In 1995, Saudi Arabia occupied 26th place in the World Bank's list of countries with the highest levels of exports.

Gross domestic product is estimated to have been 547 billion riyals in 1997, up from 511 billion riyals in 1996.



Saudi Arabia has built a modern, dynamic economy. Above: the capital, Riyadh.

The People's Welfare

The government concentrates on providing social services and care to all citizens who are in need of special care due to their health or social circumstances and to assist them in surmounting their difficulties to live a dignified, stable and good normal life.

The government has established more than 77 organizations and institutions for boys and girls, orphans, mentally or physically disabled, and elderly people to look after their needs and help them contribute to society.

To protect workers from poverty due to disability, old age or occupational injuries, the government established a social insurance system. The system was set up in 1973 and today covers more than 6.24 million workers.

Health care standards in Saudi Arabia match those of the world's most advanced countries. Hospitals, clinics and well-equipped health centers care for people in all parts of the country.

Of the 290 hospitals in the Kingdom, 176 are administered by the Health Ministry; the others

are run by other governmental authorities and the private sector. There are 2.32 hospital beds per 1,000 residents and 1.7 doctors per 1,000 residents.

Saudi Arabia is now witnessing a general awakening in education. There are eight universities and thousands of primary, middle and secondary schools for boys and girls. Specialized colleges and institutions offer adult education in various scientific branches and also adult literacy classes.

From 1970 to 1997, the number of boys and girls in general and higher education increased eightfold, to 4.5 million students. The Kingdom now counts 22,300 schools, up from 3,283 in 1970. More than 300,000 students are in universities and teacher training colleges, while about 29,000 are studying in technical schools. About 10,000 are studying in vocational training centers.

The state provides free education to Saudi citizens and residents and gives financial aid, health care, accommodation and transport to students in post-graduate studies.

Service of Holy Places

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its government and its people are proud to serve the Two Holy Mosques of the sacred House of Allah at Mecca and the Mosque of the Prophet (peace be upon him) at Medina, and Haj and Umrah pilgrims and visitors.

King Fahd, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, has carried out the largest expansion of the Two Holy Mosques in their history.

The expansion increased the area of the Holy Mosque in Mecca from 183,000 square meters (48 acres) to 356,000 square meters, accommodating 773,000 worshippers, up from 410,000. At the time of the Haj and the holy month of Ramadan, capacity of the Holy Mosque increases to accommodate more than a

million worshippers by using surrounding yards and roofs of the mosque.

A similar project has increased the area of the Prophet's Mosque to accommodate 700,000 worshippers (more than one million worshippers during the Haj season).

The cost of the expanding the Two Holy Mosques has exceeded 70 billion riyals.

A printing complex inaugurated by King Fahd in 1985 prints 10 million copies of the Koran yearly.

The Kingdom, in cooperation with the Islamic Bank, has adopted a project for using the meat of animals sacrificed during the Haj season to feed refugees and needy people in Arab and Islamic countries. The project distributes more than 500,000 heads of livestock a year to about 28 countries for their poor.

Protecting The Environment

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accords great importance to the protection of the environment, in accordance with Islamic principles, which call for judicious management and use of natural resources that is neither damaging nor overexploitative.

The government has issued a body of environmental-protection laws and entrusted a number of ministries and other governmental authorities and organizations with the responsibility of the laws' implementation. The Kingdom has also pursued balanced and integrated policies during planning

and implementing development programs and projects to ensure that negative environmental effects are minimized.

A number of programs to protect endangered animal and plant species have been put into place, and King Fahd issued a decree in 1986 to form a national commission for wildlife conservation. The four main areas of work for the wildlife commission are protecting wildlife habitats, developing rare or threatened wildlife, issuing rules and regulations strengthening the protection and development efforts, and providing direction and guidance in the field of protecting the natural environment.

THE CONTENT FOR "NATIONAL DAY OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA" WAS FURNISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION OF SAUDI ARABIA.

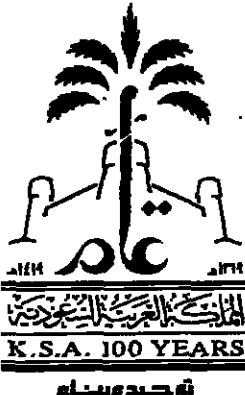
23rd SEPTEMBER 1998

National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

IN THIS, THE 66th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF SAUDI ARABIA, WE ALSO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY BY THE ISLAMIC CALENDAR OF THE RECAPTURE OF RIYADH BY THE EXILED YOUNG IBN SAUD.



King Abdul Aziz (Ibn Saud)



Described by Chambers Encyclopaedia as "the outstanding Arab ruler of his time", Ibn Saud had the vision to bring together the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula in order to forge a single kingdom, founded upon strict adherence to Islam.

Banished was I from the heart of Arabia, Riyadh my home, had been stolen by others; banished was I, and my father and mother, brothers and sisters, deprived of our birthright. Sadness we felt for the years that denied us the feel of the sand of the Nejd in our hands.

Kindness we found in Kuwait beyond measure but kindness alone could not cure the pain of living in exile, a life without pleasure, for pleasure, not nurtured in honour, will wither. I knew from the earliest years of my living that I must return to the place of my birth.

They told me that only my death would await me, (but fear is a far harsher master than death); they warned of the dangers of crossing the desert but it was the desert that had given me breath. They asked how a lad could recapture a city, when put to the sword what my pride would be worth; I asked how the seed, lying dry in the sand, at the first taste of rain can emerge from the earth.

"Who will ride at my side on this perilous venture? Who will risk life and limb to expel Al Rashid?" SILENCE answered my call, young and brave, one and all. "With all of our strength, we will give what you need; we will stand by your side when the battle is joined until each of us falls - or Riyadh is freed."

It was not for the glory we rode from Kuwait; we held faith as our shield and justice our sword. I sought to regain the land of my fathers but in all I deferred to the will of the Lord. We rode towards Riyadh with banners unfurled, putting trust in the God who created the world.

Through a cold Ramadan we encamped in the desert; we fasted one month in the village of Haradh, far away from the eyes of those who might think that folly could lead us to try to take Riyadh. When the fasting was over, I summoned my kinsmen; without hesitation they answered my call. Like shadows that slip over sand dunes at sunset we gathered in silence beneath Riyadh's wall.

On that night long ago, when the time came to act, I knew in my heart what it was to be free: the greatest good fortune in life for a man is to know he has reached for the best he can be. Whatever might follow that cold, moonless night, we would know we had fought for a cause that was right.

I chose from my band a mere handful of men: each one read the risks from the look in my eyes. We scaled the walls under cover of darkness; we watched for the sun to put light in the skies. Outnumbered, we knew that our hope of success must depend in the end on our use of surprise.

In a fight it is true if you strike off the head of a man or an army, the battle is won. We few faced a garrison ready to crush us; such odds left no question what had to be done. The fate of the Amir of Riyadh was sealed. He must die for the wounds of Al Saud to be healed.

When Ajlan, the Amir, appeared in the open, we struck as the lion descends on its prey. Bin Jelawi forced open the gate of the fortress: the rest of the brothers then joined in the fray. The garrison knew that resistance was futile: Al Saud had returned to its home on that day.

Looking back through the decades, the taking of Riyadh was merely one step on a path, hard and long. After many a battle, I put all my heart into building a nation, devout, proud and strong, with justice its sword and faith as its shield, in the land where the message of God was revealed.

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OPINION/LETTERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Judging the Testimony and Its Play

What happened between President Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky was not criminal, but what Mr. Clinton did when questioned about the matter before a duly empowered court of law was illegal. The president is the highest officer of the law, and therefore has obligations even higher than the ordinary to respect the laws of the land, whether he likes them or not, no matter how embarrassing or uncomfortable compliance may be.

It now has been established beyond any reasonable doubt that Mr. Clinton committed perjury, suborned witnesses, obstructed justice, and misused the enormous powers of his office as well as employees of the government for personal purposes.

If the president escapes responsibility for his illegal actions, so carefully, freshly and infallibly documented, the door will be open to activity that has no limit.

ROGER L. MARKLEY.
Rignat, France.

I am disappointed and embarrassed by Mr. Clinton's lapse of judgment in his personal life and his sad efforts to defend himself. I am more disturbed by the spectacle presented by the Congress of my country.

The president's actions must now reverberate in his conscience and in his relationship with his family. The demeanor of the Congress and its majority, however, suggests that it is not equal to this moment in history and the position of

America in the world at this time — a tragic circumstance. Having seen the video of the president's testimony, I feel he handled himself well under difficult circumstances, a skill for which we Americans twice elected him to office. To move toward impeachment on these grounds is ludicrous.

As an expatriate I have not been politically active in the past, but now I intend to support every effort in the coming congressional elections to change the current situation and bring this sorry episode to a fair and speedy conclusion.

JOHN PATRICK THOMAS.
Hamburg.

At a time when there are pressing problems on the world agenda, the international community needs American leadership — not on X-rated videotapes about the U.S. president's personal problems flashed into every household and circulated on the Internet. Only the American people can stop this madness. May reason prevail — not just for Bill Clinton's sake but for the world community.

KARL H. PAGAC.
Villeneuve-Loubet, France.

As a lawyer having watched Mr. Clinton's grand jury testimony, it is clear to me that he neither lied nor did anything for which he should resign or be impeached. Mr. Clinton followed his lawyers' advice and answered exactly the questions Kenneth Starr and the other

prosecutors asked him. Put simply, Paula Jones's counsel and Mr. Starr were ineffective at phrasing their questions, and Mr. Clinton outsmarted them.

The country, the economy, the Constitution, President Clinton and the office of the presidency have suffered enough due to Mr. Starr and other anti-Clinton Republicans. That minority should not be allowed to upset the 1996 election and the will of the American people.

DONALD CENNAMO.
Suttgart.

Honesty while on the witness stand is what the U.S. justice system rests on. It is time for the president to be removed from office and punished. To let this crime go unpunished would send a dangerous message to all.

PAUL LUEDTKE.
Nyon, Switzerland.

Before the Starr report was delivered to Congress, the Republicans pledged to handle the forthcoming investigation of President Clinton in a strictly bipartisan manner. Their haste to put the videotape of the president's grand jury testimony into public circulation reveals, on the contrary, their single-minded determination to drag the president back and forth through the mud. No other purpose is served by this unfortunate decision.

JAMES MCINTOSH.
Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.

If a person can be compelled to reveal in detail his or her sexual secrets and then condemned for them and trying to keep them secret, where has freedom gone? And will it ever be retrieved?

RICHARD RUBIN.
Waterford, Connecticut.

After the pep show, I'm voting Democratic in November.

JAMES GREENSTREET.
Cupertino, California.

To allow the showing of Mr. Clinton's interrogation on television is by European standards an obnoxious and base attack on law and democracy, degrading the population to voyeurism. Why must a leader who cannot be re-elected be de-



Belfast Will Be Just Wonderful Without the 'Head Down' Rule

By Kathleen A. Quinn

BELFAST — In a city known for its political violence, I've found generous neighbors and good friends. I am an American living in Northern Ireland. I first came here six years ago while on sabbatical. As soon as I could, I quit my job as an English professor and

Their stories go on and on. So why do I live here? It's not the weather. It doesn't just rain here. It pours; it lashes; it buckets. It is often, as the locals say, "desperate."

It's certainly not because of the extremists who are so overwhelmed by the hatred of centuries that they think it's their patriotic duty to shoot or beat or bomb or maim. And it most assuredly is not because of those political figures who officially keep their own hands clean while twisting Biblical verses to whip their followers into frenzies of fear and loathing. They are evil.

I live here because of the rest of the people. The neighbor who brought his fiddle to my Thanksgiving dinner so we could have music. The young Protestant man who spent four hours in a pub with me one afternoon to make sure I understood his cultural identity. The friends who sang songs in Gaelic or recited poems or told stories at my 50th birthday party. The students in my Irish-studies class who spent an hour arguing with each other about the existence of fairies. The woman who gave me a bicycle. The people who filled my new house with their furniture. The young woman who helped me strip wallpaper and pretended it was fun. The news agent who lends me books because she knows that I love mysteries as much as she does.

It is because of these people — with their incredible warmth and friendliness, their black humor and their generosity of spirit — that I love it here. It is also because of the beauty of Northern Ireland — the mystical, lush landscape of the countryside and the unmistakable red-brick Victorian architecture of Belfast. It is because it is a safe place for women. Belfast may be the only city in the Western world where women have traditionally been safer on the streets than men, since men were chosen as random targets of sectarian violence.

Of course, there are the Troubles. But those of us who live here go on with our normal lives. Maybe I am keeping my head down right now. But if you look closely, you can see there's a smile on my face. It has been there since the parties representing the unionist-loyalist and nationalist-republican traditions agreed to work together in a new Assembly.

We never thought it would happen, but it did. Our politicians finally looked away from the past and toward the future. Our future. Our children's futures. Any day now, my head will come up. And whatever I say, whatever we all say, it will be something. And the sound of peace will be heard, echoing throughout the six counties of Northern Ireland.

Newswatch.

The Congress Seems to Need Help

Members of Congress should get a grip. We know, after all this titillating "work," having to hunker down to boring world economics or way-over-the-trivialities like peace in Israel would be a reach. But we Americans are with them.

They should give us an e-mail address, 24 hours and two questions to answer: (1) Do you want to know anything more about the Monica Lewinsky-Bill Clinton inquisition — yes or no, and (2) Would you rather see (a) Congress impeach the president; (b) Congress censor the president; (c) The president resign; (d) Congress send the president up against the wall of the Oval Office and shoot him; or (e) Other — please note.

It's time lawmakers took a walk outside the Beltway, and not just among their tight little groups of hometown constituents.

CAROL ALLEN.
Roanoke, France.

stroyed in such a brutal way?

NATASHA BOBBIO.
Küsnacht, Switzerland.

Does "legally accurate" mean, truly, suggest or even resemble "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?"

MELANIE FEAKINS.
Oxford, England.

Clinton is peerless. His performance was seamless. Starr was relentless and shameless. His case proved to be less. Now we all know the whole thing was pointless.

The press was gutless and spineless, not to mention heartless and soulless. The trash they put out was tasteless and mindless. Thirty-six percent of the public was brainless, even clueless.

Now the Republicans have to prove their libidos are flameless, their consciences stainless, their morals flawless, and their reputations spotless.

They will have to stop being so witless. This will prove hopeless. The result will be priceless.

LINDA DEAK.
Wassenaar, Netherlands.

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PM Dawn, neither machine-made nor vituperative: They don't scream in your face, they whisper in your ear.

Christian Rap: An Oxymoron?

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — When the group PM Dawn first came out with spiritual rap 12 years ago, its members found that they had encouraged preachers of many denominations to say things like: "Wow! Christian rappers. See? You can be cool and be a Christian."

A Christian rap group? Is this an oxymoron or what? PM Dawn is neither machine-made nor vituperative. It doesn't scream in your face, it whispers in your ear. It is made up of Prince Be, or B, and his brother DJ Minutemix a.k.a. JC/The Eternal, depending on which year and album you're referring to. They were born and raised in Jersey City as Atrell and Jarrett Cordes.

PM Dawn's fourth and latest album, "Dearest Christian," which comes out in October, is more adult-oriented than the others, and it carries the dedication: "I'm so very sorry for bringing you here. Love, Dad." At the time, Prince Be was busy asking himself, "What's wrong with this place?" "Christian" is the name of his 4-year-old son.

He learned that he was also the father of twins in January, when the hospital called the studio in the middle of a recording session. "You should have seen the look on his face," JC said with brotherly compassion. "All of a sudden he had this huge responsibility. I knew it was heavy."

"Three kids, not one," Prince Be thought. He could "no longer use music as a vent." Now it would have to be "a tool for dealing with reality. It was time

to take a closer look. I had no choice. I had to deal with reality, even though I prefer fantasies. I prefer 'Alice in Wonderland' to 'Riot in Cellblock H.'"

PM Dawn's previous albums were about fantasies: "We had a song called 'Reality Used to Be a Friend of Mine.' It couldn't stay fantasy anymore because it was not just about me anymore."

He had felt like apologizing to the kids, and that is on the album too: "They weren't really thought out, planned out, it wasn't for their good. I didn't say this is a nice world to bring kids into. It was pretty egotistical on my part. But now that they're here they got to eat. I'm not allowed to not deal with reality any more."

"Misery in Utero" is a sad song: "I've got enough hatred to last me a lifetime." He's always had an "awful relationship" with his parents. He wanted to figure out how it got so bad: "I didn't want my kids and I to end up hating each other. I didn't want to make the same mistakes my parents made."

What's this? Family Values rap? Although PM Dawn markets its product as rap, if comparisons must be made it sounds more like a cross between Michael Jackson and the Beatles (with touches of Prince and even the Beach Boys, if you can believe it) than Ice-T. It's all derivative, but the tunes are tuneful and the voices are urgent, breathless, caressing and sincere.

What does an acoustic guitar have to do with rap? Never mind, maybe the record is just in the wrong bin, a misplacement of product. Or it might be an outright misnomer. When you get right

down to it, who cares? If this is what rap has come to sound like, God bless.

His bio describes their sound: "Melodic soul, jazzy guitar solos, and sometimes just finger snaps with acoustic guitars and voice can help smooth over some patches of life's dark, bumpy road." Amen. It quotes the press about their previous album, "Jesus Wept": "Giving it four stars, Rolling Stone called it 'pillow-soft pop, moody psychedelia'; the Los Angeles Times said, simply, 'Groundbreaking.' And the respected critic Dave Marsh said, 'It has the rich intensity of 'Revolver.''" by the Beatles.

"Our songs could fit anywhere — pop, rap, R&B," said Prince Be. "A lot of rap artists did not know how to deal with this sort of thing. It got confusing for people." Rap has been growing in popularity and crossing over every which way to reach more and more kinds of kids in different places and of different races and classes. Something must have been added along the way — new branches, styles and subject matter. Lauren Hill and the Fugees feature sweet-talking R&B. PM Dawn seems to be next.

The more you think about and hear it, the more you wonder why it didn't happen earlier. In the context of contemporary American culture, why not spiritual rap? Atrell and Jarrett's mother sang gospel in their living room in Jersey City and neighborhood kids sat on the stoop listening to her. "Your ma sure can sing," they said.

There's certainly no need for a parental guidance sticker on "Dearest Christian."

Verdi on High, and Low, Notes In Paris, a Fine Cast Gives 'Don Carlo' Its Due

By David Stevens
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Verdi probably wrote more music for the various versions of "Don Carlo" than for any of his other operas, and certainly no one has ever heard all of it in one sitting.

Yet, whether it is heard in the 1867 five-act grand opera he wrote to a French text for the Paris Opera ("Don Carlos"), or in the four-act revision first performed at La Scala, in Italian translation, in 1884 ("Don Carlo") — the two principal versions — it is one of the most ambitious, emotionally abundant works in Verdi's catalogue.

Although the Paris Opera ignored the work for almost a century after the world premiere, some intense scholarship led in recent years to revivals of the five-act work in French — at the Paris Opera in 1986 and at the Chatelet 10 years later.

Now, for its first new production of the season, the four-act revision and sung in Italian, is on the Bastille stage, handsomely cast and conducted with unaccustomed passion by James Conlon.

Like the Schiller play on which it is based, "Don Carlo" is a romantic tragedy set in the gloomy court of Philip II of Spain. Some of the characters are historical, but this is not history. It is a set of interlocking emotional triangles complicated by notions of political freedom that would be totally out of place in 16th-century Spain.

One of the distinctive things about "Don Carlo," and a reason for its dark musical hues, is that the deeper voices predominate. Had the original tenor not been so inadequate, the title role would doubtless have been more prominent, but even so this is a work that primarily belongs to the basses, the baritone and the mezzo soprano. There are not many operas with a quartet that dispenses with the tenor voice.



Neil Shicoff, kneeling, and Vladimir Chernov in "Don Carlo."

Samuel Ramey, in resonant vocal form, was convincing as the anguished monarch, and he was joined by a black-voiced Kristinn Sigmundsson, as the extremely aged and blind Grand Inquisitor (the symbolism is intentional) in their great, all-bass, church-state confrontation.

Vladimir Chernov brought a relatively light baritone to the music of the improbably idealistic Rodrigo, and his

duets with the Don Carlo of Neil Shicoff, came off splendidly. Shicoff's lyric tenor suits the title role admirably, and he gave a suitably neurotic intensity to the unbalanced prince.

The part of Elisabeth of Valois, beloved of Carlo but married to Philip, is fairly thankless until the final act, but there Carol Vaness made the most of the restrained beauty of her duet with a passionate but resigned Shicoff.

Last, but definitely not least, was the Princess Eboli of Dolores Zajick, whose mezzo soprano is one of the most powerful instruments of its kind to be heard these days. Whether in the bantering Veil Song, in confused attempts to woo Carlo for herself, or in the all-out remorse of "O don fatale," Zajick did not stint, and she got reactions of wild enthusiasm from much of the audience.

Graham Vick's staging, along with Tobias Hoheisel's sets, avoided historical references for the most part, except for a flamboyant procession in the auto-da-fé scene, which Verdi did not take from Schiller, but added to give the original production a splash of the spectacular that Paris Opera productions required then.

For the most part, the sets were an anonymous arrangement of space by high walls, with nature kept outside the scene of action and perceived only vaguely through the occasional translucent picture window. The overbearing symbol of a cross was constantly present in one form or another.

Vick also took a stab at creating a more realistic final scene to replace the usual mystifying appearance of Charles V (or a monk who looks like the former emperor, Philip's dead father) to protect Carlo from the Inquisition.

Instead Carlo, standing in his grandfather's cross-shaped tomb, is skewered by soldier's pikes, cheating the Inquisition by death, while the consoling voice of the monk/emperor (the excellent Franz Hawlata) is heard from offstage.

In London, an Unheroic 'Otello'

By George W. Loomis

LONDON — With the situation at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, going from bad to worse, opera-goers here will doubtless turn in greater numbers to the English National Opera for sustenance. Unfortunately, its first new production of the season, Verdi's "Otello," was not an occasion for much rejoicing.

David Freeman's decision to set the opera in a contemporary military compound seemed plausible enough during the frenzy of the opening storm scene and the drunken brawl that follows. But by the time of the first-act love duet — i.e., just when the emotional power of the opera begins to take hold — one sensed a mismatch between Tom Phillips' sets and the heroic sentiments of Verdi's music.

Phillips' aluminum fences and coiled barbed wire remained stubbornly in place for the entire evening, creating a visual monotony that the varying shades of Richard Riddell's lighting could do little to alleviate. Otello degrades Desdemona in many ways, but consigning her to exposed sleeping quarters in this uninviting place seemed as unseemly as anything except, of course, the final act of strangulation.

And it didn't help to probe too deeply the implications of the modern setting. Who was this guy waging a Mediterranean assault against the Turks? More likely the leader of some Middle Eastern splinter group, one would guess, than the revered warrior of a great empire.

Once he thought up with the idea of a present-day "Otello," Freeman found nowhere to go with it.

More's the pity because musically the

performance had a lot to admire. The conductor, Paul Daniel, moved the music along at a smart pace yet missed few of the score's furious outbursts or tender passages. David Rendall scored impressively with his first Otello, summoning reserves of vocal power that one familiar from his Metropolitan Opera performances in the 1980s would have thought beyond him. His was a fully formed portrayal, gripping in its intensity.

Susan Bullock's handsomely sung Desdemona had the right vocal weight and was always artfully phrased. But Freeman seemed determined to make her into an unremarkable, middle-class figure, and Phillips' unflattering costumes seconded the effort. An ideal lagoon will be sung with more mellifluous venom than Robert Hayward brought to bear, but the raw energy of his vocalism served him well. Mark Le Brocq was an able Cassio.

Despite its faults, this new "Otello," sung in a new English translation by Phillips, at least demonstrated the company's special character, a character so different from Covent Garden's that one instinctively reacts against those defeatists who claim London can support only one major opera company.

Yet the mismanaged and temporarily homeless — but artistically vital — Royal Opera sometimes seems headed for self-destruction.

Two weeks ago it was announced that after January all performances would be suspended until December 1999, when renovations to the house are expected to be completed; thereafter they will be cut by one-third.

Who will be left to return at that time remains to be seen. The chorus will be disbanded, and the orchestra and staff shrunk and forced to make concessions

— some long overdue — in negotiations next month. Then last weekend came news that labor unrest concerning bonuses and working conditions threatens further delay in the renovations.

It's no wonder that the board, which has gone through four chief executives in the last 22 months, is having a tough time finding still another new management team. Most recently it has looked to the United States.

Michael Kaiser, executive director of the New York-based American Ballet Theater, signed on last week as executive director, and the board is apparently still pursuing Sarah Billingham, the No. 2 artistic person at the Metropolitan Opera, though she has said she would only accept the post of general director.

BECAUSE the company will remain dependent on large subsidies from the British government, however, a purely American approach won't work in any event. The new management will need adroit political skills to ensure that — contrary to the situation in the United States — a broad consensus supports using government money for opera.

All this when the company is gearing up for two complete performances of Wagner's "Ring" cycle — one in the Albert Hall, the other in Birmingham — both under its eminent musical director, Bernard Haitink, who has been curiously silent during the recent turbulence.

It's probably wishful thinking to suppose that a stirring performance of Wagner's masterpiece will help inspire new efforts to sustain a company London should not be allowed to lose.

George W. Loomis is a music writer based in Moscow.

The Year's Best and Bleakest Farce

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Not since John Osborne's "The Entertainer," and that has been all of 40 years, have we had a play that deals as lethally or as brilliantly with the moment in a comic's life when the raised eyebrow and the fixed grin become a death mask. Terry Johnson's "Cleo, Camping, Emmanuelle and Dick" (directed

by the author on the Lyttelton stage of the National) is the best and bleakest comedy of the year, and one that deals with the real lives, insofar as they ever had them, of the three principal stars of the "Carry On" sequence of 30 or so low-budget screen farces shot between 1956 and 1978.

By the time we join the cast and crew backstage midway through the series, things are beginning to fall apart both on and off the set. Scripts are already as tired and repetitive as the real lives of those who have to play them; Kenneth Williams is already suicidally gloomy about the work he is being forced to perform; Barbara Windsor is watching her jealous husband go to jail for armed robbery; and Sid James — he of the dirty laugh and the need to molest every girl who comes through his dressing-room door — has already seen a vision of the death that awaits him, a death presaged by that of his old partner, Tony Hancock.

Johnson's genius here, as in his earlier "Dead Funny," has been to construct a stage farce far funnier than any of the

ones that his cast is ostensibly shooting, but also to focus on the reality that inside every comic is a deeply sad and disturbed being trying to get out and confront a world that only wants to make him unhappy as only a comic can be.

The casting here is wonderful. Adam Godley's Kenneth Williams may from time to time drift dangerously close to Stanley Baxter, another comic hero of the period, but he has perfectly caught Kenneth's constantly wounded pride. Samantha Spiro's Barbara Williams is also an amazingly lookalike-soundalike creation — the only one of the comics Johnson treats with any real love or respect for her genuinely good nature. Kenneth MacDon-

ald as the heavy sent by her gangster husband to keep an eye on her affair with Sid may be little more than a thug from central casting, but Jacqueline Derriford as the dresser who can never quite manage to tell Sid she is his illegitimate daughter, and Gina Bellman as Imo Hassall are heartbreaking in their attempt to crack Sid's armor of despairing laughter. But the central figure, Geoffrey Hutchings, in the performance of the evening and his career, gives us a Sid James that is breathtaking in its accuracy of impersonation and understanding of an unhappy man who would go anywhere for a laugh except into the arms of the few people who genuinely loved or understood him.


The idea of the clown with the heart of sheer misery is not exactly a new one, but what Johnson does here — watched over by the shadows of Hancock and Joe

Orton — is to capture that borderline moment when it all starts to come apart at the seams.

There are better laughs here than in all the "Carry On" movies put together, but behind them all lies the real agony of laugh. Johnson's play is as potent a lament for the end of the "Carry On" era as was "The Entertainer" for the end of music hall, and in its own way manages to capture a moment in British showbiz history when it too was consumed by hatred for itself and its audience.

Say what you like about current stand-up comedy, it will never give us the giants of the old knockabout farces, nor their ability to turn a laugh not just on their own backs, but on the twist of a knife in their where and why true British comedy committed its own lingering, gasping suicide, this great tragicomic tells it the way it was and never will be again.

At the Bush, but only until the end of next week, "Love Upon the Throne" is also a deeply funny and anarchically touching slice of contemporary life, this one based on the doomed marriage of Charles and Diana up to the moment of their parting. As played by the entire cast of the Royal National Theatre of Brent, Dr. Desmond Oliver Dingle and his hardworking associate Raymond Box (Patrick Barlow and John Ramm), they emerge as just another deeply disturbed people doing their best to survive in an alien culture, and once again their profound sadness is the cause of all our guilty mirth. Death, as they say, is easy; comedy is what's hard.



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Doing what others dare not

Clinton Gets A Pledge of Best Efforts From Japan

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's administration has received a pledge from Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto that his government will do its best to meet the demands of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Hashimoto's pledge came in a letter to Clinton, which was made public by the White House. The letter said that Hashimoto's government would "do its utmost" to meet the requirements of the agreements, which are aimed at reducing trade barriers between the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Clinton's administration has been pushing for the agreements since they were first signed in 1994. The agreements have been controversial in Japan, where many businesses and politicians have opposed them, fearing they would hurt Japanese industries.

Hashimoto's pledge is seen as a significant step towards resolving the dispute. It comes as Clinton's administration prepares to announce a new round of trade negotiations with Japan.

ECONOMIC SCENE

Bribery: White House

WASHINGTON — The White House has announced that it will launch a new campaign to combat bribery in the United States. The campaign will focus on educating the public about the dangers of bribery and on encouraging businesses to report any suspected cases of bribery to the appropriate authorities.

The White House said that bribery is a major problem in the United States, and that it is causing significant damage to the economy and to the integrity of the government. The campaign will include a series of public service announcements, as well as a new website dedicated to providing information about bribery and how to report it.

CURRENT

Other Dollar Values

Country	Value
Argentina	100 pesos = 1 dollar
Australia	1 dollar = 1.50 Australian dollars
Canada	1 dollar = 70 Canadian cents
France	1 dollar = 6.55 French francs
Germany	1 dollar = 1.936 Deutsche marks
Italy	1 dollar = 1,366 Italian lire
Japan	1 dollar = 106 Japanese yen
South Korea	1 dollar = 1,067 South Korean won
Switzerland	1 dollar = 1.736 Swiss francs
United Kingdom	1 dollar = 0.756 British pounds
West Germany	1 dollar = 1.936 Deutsche marks

Forward Rates

Month	Rate
1 month	1.0000
3 months	1.0000
6 months	1.0000
9 months	1.0000
12 months	1.0000

Clinton Gets A Pledge of 'Best Efforts' From Japan

By Mitchell Martin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi of Japan said he was "neither optimistic nor pessimistic" about the chances of restructuring Japan's banking and finance systems, raising only lukewarm hopes for a start on dealing with Asia's economic weakness after a meeting Tuesday with President Bill Clinton.

The leaders discussed economic issues at a meeting in New York that had been scheduled as a social occasion. The Japanese economy, which is in recession this year after nearly a decade of sluggish growth, is hindering the ability of other Asian countries to recover from financial crises that began last year.

Washington has called for Tokyo to support its banks by pumping public money into otherwise insolvent institutions after wiping out the value of their stockholders' shares, as well as increasing public spending and cutting taxes to stimulate its economy. In Tokyo, however, plans to deal with nearly \$1 trillion of bank debts were unraveling this week as a coalition of opposition parties sought harsher terms for dealing with the ailing Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd. than Mr. Obuchi supports.

Mr. Obuchi said many people in Japan "realize this is not only an issue in Japan but something that has major implications on the economies of Asia as well as the whole world." Because of this international aspect, he said, he was making his "very best efforts to address this issue" and was "convinced" the country would be able to do so.

In a brief appearance with Mr. Obuchi, Mr. Clinton downplayed American pressure on Japan.

"Japan is a very great country," he said, "with a strong, sophisticated economy and immensely talented people."

He added, "I think there is virtually unanimous support in the world for the kind of financial reforms that would restore economic growth in Japan."

Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said Mr. Clinton had not set a deadline for action and that the Japanese leader had not promised specific moves. But he said Mr. Obuchi had "made it clear that it was his intention to take appropriate measures to secure an early turnaround in the Japanese economy."

Michael McCurry, the White House press secretary, said the meeting between Mr. Clinton and Mr. McCurry had been scheduled as a 10-minute social visit but said the two leaders had extended it to an hourlong discussion about trade.

Mr. Clinton also invited Mr. Obuchi to pay a state visit early next year.



The Body Shop in Manhattan. The British company has struggled to stay in business in the United States.

Why U.S. Is a Hard Sell for U.K. Stores

Vastness of Marketplace and Real Estate Errors Stymie British Retailers

By Jennifer Steinbauer
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — If it is true, as everyone from Adam Smith to Disraeli and Napoleon has said, that the British are a nation of shopkeepers, why can't they keep shop more successfully in America?

The language is the same and, on the surface anyway, consumer tastes seem similar enough — both nations, for example, embraced the Spice Girls with unfathomable zeal.

What is more, London has been a locus of hip, with its fashion designers basking in the international limelight and stores like Saks Fifth Avenue importing British cool for their shelves.

One success story is that of the Virgin Group, which started with an airline and has added music stores, a soft drink, various entertainment media and now even clothes as part of its U.S. operations.

But for most British merchants, the hop across the pond has not been easy. Many have tried their hand in the United States and failed, like Habitat, a housewares chain that is now defunct, and Next, a trendy clothing store.

Others made a splash, and then struggled mightily, most notably Laura Ashley Holdings PLC, which has been through management turmoil in the last two years, and Body Shop International PLC, which was recently forced to form a joint venture with Bellamy Retail Group LLC to stay in business in the United States after bleeding cash for years.

The reasons are many, ranging from Americans' desire for a bargain to real estate mistakes by British retail companies. And then there is the sheer vastness

of the U.S. marketplace, where the mall is king and competition can upset the market in the time it takes to finish afternoon tea.

"What English companies don't understand is that America is a much more dynamic marketplace and much more competitive than the U.K.," said Rajit Singh, a former vice president of business development for Body Shop who now runs a food business in London. "You have to have deep pockets to roll out a concept very quickly there, and have a very aggressive marketing strategy."

High-growth U.S. retailers tend to get started by opening in a few markets, backed by venture capital money. Once the stores gain acceptance, the retailer moves quickly — often after a successful public offering or after being bought out — by sprinkling new stores around the nation's malls and downtown shopping districts like so many flower seeds.

"In the U.S., there is a very active venture capital community focused on the retail industry," said Henry Jackson, a managing director at Peter J. Solomon, an investment bank that specializes in retailing. "It is a very different business culture in U.K. They have had very few examples of entrepreneurship in retail, and from the standpoint of venture capital and small companies going public, there is less of a focus."

In addition, British merchants often have trouble choosing real estate in the United States, so different from England, where London rules the roost and most other cities have one concentrated shopping district.

Habitat, which began in Britain in 1964 under Sir Terence Conran and was a success there, would have seemed like

a natural export for the United States — years later, two home-grown chains, the Pottery Barn and Crate and Barrel, have had wild success here with fairly inexpensive, trendy housewares.

But Habitat put one of its Manhattan stores in Midtown, in the Citicorp Building on East 53d Street, an expensive site that was hardly a spot for casual browsing. Similarly pricey spots were chosen in Philadelphia, Washington and Boston, and most stores had trouble generating enough in sales to support the rent.

Marks & Spencer PLC, a national institution where half the population of England buys its underwear, opened stores in Canada 25 years ago and learned an expensive lesson: it is very hard to translate that feeling to another nation of consumers who already have their favorite place to buy basic necessities.

"We made a big mistake trying to take a British retailer to Canada," said Chris Littmoden, the company's chief executive for North American operations. "They saw us as a bit old-fashioned."

Murdoch-Led Group To Take Kirch Stake

Investors Include Prince Walid and Mediaset

MONTE CARLO — Rupert Murdoch, the Saudi investor Prince Walid bin Talal and Mediaset SpA plan to buy as much as 25 percent of Kirch Group, Germany's second-largest media company, for about \$2 billion, Prince Walid's adviser said Tuesday.

The project also involves reorganizing Kirch and selling shares in the company, said Tarak Ben Ammar, who is also a Mediaset board member. Mediaset is Italy's largest private broadcaster. A Kirch spokesman declined to comment.

Linking up with Kirch would create Europe's biggest television alliance, covering Italy, Germany, Spain and Britain, and create an entity able to compete with major U.S. networks in creating television programs. Mr. Murdoch and Mediaset would get a foothold in the potentially lucrative German market, Europe's largest, with more than 33 million households.

"They now have an opportunity to get in the market because of Kirch's financial weakness," said Laurent Carozzi, a media analyst at Paribas in London.

The privately held German company, which controls a digital-TV venture, DFL, the SAT1 commercial channel and the DSF sports channel, has debt of about 3 billion Deutsche marks (\$1.78 billion), analysts said. Leo Kirch, the company's founder, has said that DFL has lost about 1.4 billion DM since it began broadcasting in 1996 and has attracted only a quarter of the customers it expected to have.

Prince Walid's strategy is closely watched, as he has made well-timed investments in distressed companies in the past. He has stakes in Citicorp, Euro Disney SCA and Apple Computer Inc.

Federico Confalonieri, the Mediaset chairman, said the alliance would focus on commercial television financed by advertisements rather than on pay television. If the alliance goes forward, it will not be affected by the plans of Telecom Italia SpA, RAI SpA and Mr. Murdoch to form a pay-TV venture in Italy, he said.

Prince Walid's role will be that of an investor, even though the Murdoch-Kirch-Mediaset alliance could eventually cooperate with ART, the Arab satellite-television venture in which the prince's Kingdom Holdings owns 30

percent, Mr. Ben Ammar said. "How often do you find an important group like Kirch that wants to open up to friendly shareholders?" Mr. Ben Ammar said. "This is a great investment opportunity."

Prince Walid, Mr. Murdoch and Mediaset, which is controlled by Silvio Berlusconi, a former Italian prime minister, have already decided to invest in the German company and are now discussing the financial details, Mr. Ben Ammar said. It is not clear how the Kirch stake would be distributed and through which company Mr. Murdoch would make the investment, he said. The current economic slowdown and currency devaluations in Asia are prompting Mr. Murdoch to turn his attention to Europe, Mr. Ben Ammar said.

Mr. Murdoch's News Corp., which owns the Fox TV channel in the United States and controls British Sky Broadcasting PLC, Britain's biggest pay-TV company, also has TV ventures in Asia.

The investment in Kirch is Mr. Murdoch's latest effort to gain a foothold in Germany after two failures. BSKYB has formed separate television alliances with both Kirch and Bertelsmann AG in the past three years that have collapsed amid disagreements on terms and strategy.

Maurizio Carloti, the Mediaset chief executive, said the operation would be a base for a bigger "industrial" alliance. "The real challenge is to set up a European network that would compete and not just survive," he said.

Mediaset will invest only part of its 800 billion lire (\$481.4 million) in cash reserves in the German company, spending the rest on improving production and distribution facilities, officials said.

Mediaset was listed on the stock market two years ago as Mr. Berlusconi's Fininvest SpA, holding company sold part of its stake to Mr. Kirch, Prince Walid and others.

The Murdoch-Kirch-Mediaset alliance is also looking for a French partner to extend its pan-European grid. The most likely candidate is M6 Metropole Television, whose chief, Nicolas de Tavarnier, was a guest of honor at Mediaset's convention in Monte Carlo this week, analysts said. Mediaset's shares rose 3.34 percent to close at 10,685 lire.

ECONOMIC SCENE

Bribery: Which End Do You Measure?

By Philip Segal
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — Indonesia and Nigeria have maintained the dubious distinction as the world's two most consistently corrupt large countries in an annual "corruption perceptions index" made public Tuesday.

But heightened controversy greeted the index itself this year from within the organization that publishes it, the anti-corruption group Transparency International.

Many members and even some directors of Transparency criticized the index, noting that it is perceived in poorer countries as a blanket condemnation by richer nations, when it is often the world's wealthier countries that are the source of bribes.

The index, a sort of annual "poll of polls," measures public-sector corrup-

tion as it is perceived by businesses in 85 countries, up from 52 countries in 1997.

It uses data collected by as many as seven different companies or institutions, including the World Bank, the Economist Intelligence Unit, Gallup International and the World Economic Forum.

Preparation of the index bitterly divided Transparency International at its annual meeting last week in Kuala Lumpur, with the South African delegation threatening to disassociate itself from the survey if the board did not reconsider publication.

"Business people are saying countries in which they're doing business are corrupt. But who is doing the corrupting? The companies in those countries," concluded Wesley Cragg, the head of Transparency's Canada chapter. Quoting Lord Mountbatten's advice

on the issue of corruption, Transparency's India chapter head S. D. Sharma said: "If you want to clean a staircase, you have to start at the top."

"The index can be misleading," said a delegate from Zimbabwe at the annual meeting.

"Something like 60 percent of what's been stolen in our country never even comes near Zimbabwe. Deals are done in countries in the north, and the money is banked there."

Transparency is working on a separate, new index for next year that would measure propensity to bribe, in which richer countries in the West would look a lot less virtuous than they do atop the current corruption index.

To address some of the members' concerns this year, Transparency's chairman, Peter Eigen, issued a special

See CORRUPT, Page 14

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Sept. 22 Libor-Libor Rates									
Cross Rates	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
Amsterdam	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Bombay	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Buenos Aires	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Calcutta	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
London (2)	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Madras	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
New York (3)	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Paris	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Porto	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Shanghai	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Toronto	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
Zurich	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
1 ECU	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07
1 SDR	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07	1.07

Sept. 22 Key Money Rates									
Country	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	18-month	24-month	36-month	48-month
United States	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Canada	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Japan	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Germany	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
France	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Italy	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Spain	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Sweden	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Switzerland	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
UK	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00

Other Dollar Values									
Currency	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$	Per \$
Argentine peso	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096	0.0096
Australian \$	1.1107	1.1107	1.1107	1.1107	1.1107	1.1107	1.1107	1.1107	1.1107
Brazil real	1.1814	1.1814	1.1814	1.1814	1.1814	1.1814	1.1814	1.1814	1.1814
Chinese yuan	8.2784	8.2784	8.2784	8.2784	8.2784	8.2784	8.2784	8.2784	8.2784
Czech koruna	30.73	30.73	30.73	30.73	30.73	30.73	30.73	30.73	30.73
Danish krone	6.4544	6.4544	6.4544	6.4544	6.4544	6.4544	6.4544	6.4544	6.4544
East German mark	2.052	2.052	2.052	2.052	2.052	2.052	2.052	2.052	2.052
Fin. markka	5.147	5.147	5.147	5.147	5.147	5.147	5.147	5.147	5.147

Forward Rates									
Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	120-day	150-day	180-day	210-day	240-day	270-day
Japanese yen	1.6414	1.6414	1.6414	1.6414	1.6414	1.6414	1.6414	1.6414	1.6414
Swiss franc	1.5719	1.5719	1.5719	1.5719	1.5719	1.5719	1.5719	1.5719	1.5719
Swedish krona	1.4884	1.4884	1.4884	1.4884	1.4884	1.4884	1.4884	1.4884	1.4884

Global Private Banking

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Republic National Bank of New York

THE AMERICAS

Fears Over Coca-Cola Slow Shares' Gains

NEW YORK — Stocks were mixed Tuesday, as Coca-Cola dragged down blue-chips but broader indexes gained.

The Dow Jones industrial average finished down 36.05 points at 7,897.20, but advancing issues led declines by a 3-to-2 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500-stock index rose 5.90 points to 1,029.82, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index was up 17.35 points at 1,697.78.

Coca-Cola fell 2 1/4 to 56 7/16, contributing heavily to the decline in the Dow. The soft-drinks giant gets 70 percent of its sales and 75 percent of its profit from international operations.

Analysts predict it will post third-quarter sales declines in Indonesia,

Thailand and Korea, while Japan and Brazil — two of its top five markets — are expected to eke out small sales gains in the period.

A Salomon Smith Barney analyst cut her 1998 and 1999 earnings es-

U.S. STOCKS

timate on Coke and lowered her target price to \$59 from \$83 a share.

"Obviously there are going to be some disappointments on the earnings front," said Charles White, portfolio manager at Avatar Associates. The growth rate, he added, "is slowing, and we're starting to see some of the signs of deflationary forces at work."

Technology stocks were generally stronger. Ciena was the most heavily traded issue, gaining 4 9/16

to 159 1/16. The top maker of equipment used to expand the capacity of phone networks won a contract from Japan Telecom, one of its first since Tellabs' purchase of Ciena fell through.

Other high-tech gainers were MCI WorldCom, up 5/8 at 48 1/4, and Microsoft, which gained 1 5/16 to 109 3/16.

Yahoo surged 6 1/4 to 102 15/16, leading a rise among Internet companies on optimism that the re-

lease of President Bill Clinton's video testimony to a grand jury investigating his relationship with Monica Lewinsky was helping their business. Amazon.com rose 2 1/16 to 88 3/16, and Broadcast.com rose 6 1/4 to 50 1/4.

But Micron Technology fell 2 5/16 to 29 11/16.

Treasury bonds slipped after a

former deputy chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Alan Blinder, said the policy-making panel of the central bank was unlikely to cut rates next week.

"On purely domestic grounds, the case now for a rate cut by the Federal Reserve is simply not very strong," he told a Washington conference.

"That is the predominant view within the Federal Open Market Committee."

While the U.S. economy is still growing, its pace slowed in the second quarter to an annual rate of 1.6 percent from 5.5 percent in the first quarter.

The 30-year benchmark Treasury bond fell 8/32 to 105 4/32, which raised its yield to 5.16 percent from 5.12 percent Monday.

(Bloomberg, AP)

Yen Declines Over Discord On Bank Plan

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the yen Tuesday as political bickering over proposed banking reform in Japan threatened to prolong the country's recession.

"Because of the perpetual delays to banking legislation in Japan and the inability of Japanese politicians to deliver credible policies, the markets are punishing the yen," said Michael Hartnett, senior international economist at Merrill Lynch & Co. He predicted that the dollar

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

would top 140 yen over the next six months.

The yen weakened for the third day after the governing Liberal Democratic Party and opposition parties disagreed over the content of the government's plan to bail out the country's banks, which are saddled by as much as \$1 trillion in problem loans.

The Liberal Democrats say the vaguely worded agreement reached Friday allows the use of taxpayer funds to support one of Japan's largest financial institutions, Long Term Credit Bank Ltd. The opposition parties' interpretation is that the government would take control of the bank and eventually close it.

Two Japanese research institutes added to the gloom. The Daiwa Institute of Research forecast a 1.8 percent contraction in Japan's gross domestic product in the year through March, and Mitsubishi Research Institute Inc. predicted a 1.9 percent decline.

In P.M. trading, the dollar was quoted at 135.395 yen, up from 134.470 yen Monday.

The dollar slipped to 1.6814 Deutsche marks from 1.6902 DM after a Bundesbank council member, Klaus-Dieter Kuehnbacher, said Germany "can accept" the recent climb of the mark, which has shown a rise of as much as 7 percent against the dollar in the past month.

Mr. Kuehnbacher also said German interest rates were "correct for now," reinforcing expectations that the Bundesbank would not soon change its benchmark interest rate, now at 3.3 percent.

Against other major currencies, the dollar slipped to 1.3897 Swiss francs from 1.3908 francs and to 5.6453 French francs from 5.6675 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6845 from \$1.6810.

(Bloomberg, Bridge News)

CORRUPT: Some Say Rankings on Bribery Miss the Point

Continued from Page 13

statement reinforcing the organization's view that corruption is a two-way affair: those who give bribes are as guilty as those who take.

"The scale of corruption in many poorer countries, particularly the corruption of their elites and the negative impact of corruption on development and the plight of the most poor, would be much less were it not for illicit actions by companies with headquarters in many of the leading industrialized countries," he said.

As in years past, Nigeria and Indonesia were the most corrupt of the large countries evaluated.

The countries with the worst readings were Cameroon, Paraguay and Honduras.

The "cleanest" in the survey were the Scandinavian nations, New Zealand and Canada. Denmark scored a perfect 10, although the

imprecise nature of the index meant that it would be rash to conclude Denmark was corruption-free, Transparency said.

As an act committed by two willing participants, corruption is notoriously difficult to quantify and catalogue.

"Like an iceberg, we see only the tip," said Jeremy Pope, a Transparency executive director. "But unlike an iceberg, we don't know how much more is under the water."

Despite having the strictest laws in the world against bribery overseas, the United States only tied with Austria for 17th position and thus was judged by respondents to be more corrupt than Hong Kong.

This may have been due to Hong Kong's strict anti-corruption agency and to perceptions about corruption within the United States.

China, perceived to be extremely corrupt, still ranked better than In-

dia, the Philippines and Indonesia.

The shift in focus from bribe-taker to bribe-giver has prompted the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to pass a convention outlawing bribery abroad.

Currently, the United States is the only major economy that outlaws corrupt payments by its companies outside the country, but it will be joined by other rich nations if five major economies in the organization ratify the convention by the end of this year.

Then, countries such as France, Britain or Canada, in which it is currently legal to bribe overseas, would threaten bribe-givers with prison.

Transparency officials said that Germany probably would ratify the convention, but there is a big hitch: So far, there is no indication the German government will remove the right of businesses to deduct bribes paid abroad from their tax bills.

Deflation in Auto Industry Sets Off Broad Price War in U.S.

DETROIT — On the eve of the new model year, U.S. automakers have a lot to be thankful for: The economy is humming along on all cylinders, gasoline is cheap, and demand for new cars and trucks remains healthy.

This normally would be an opportune time to raise prices. Instead, the world's automakers are in an all-out price war in the U.S. market. They are luring customers into showrooms with lower sticker prices, rebates of as much as \$5,000 and financing rates

below 1 percent. Deflation has come to the auto industry — and it may be here for a long while.

"Consumers are getting more for their money than they ever have before," Lincoln Merritt, an analyst with J.D. Power and Associates, said this week. "It doesn't look like it will change soon."

The primary reason is intense competition in an industry with the capacity to build more vehicles than there is demand for in the whole world. Automakers' efforts to cut manufacturing costs over the past

few years have paid off in billions of dollars in savings, allowing most companies to pass on some of that windfall without sacrificing profits.

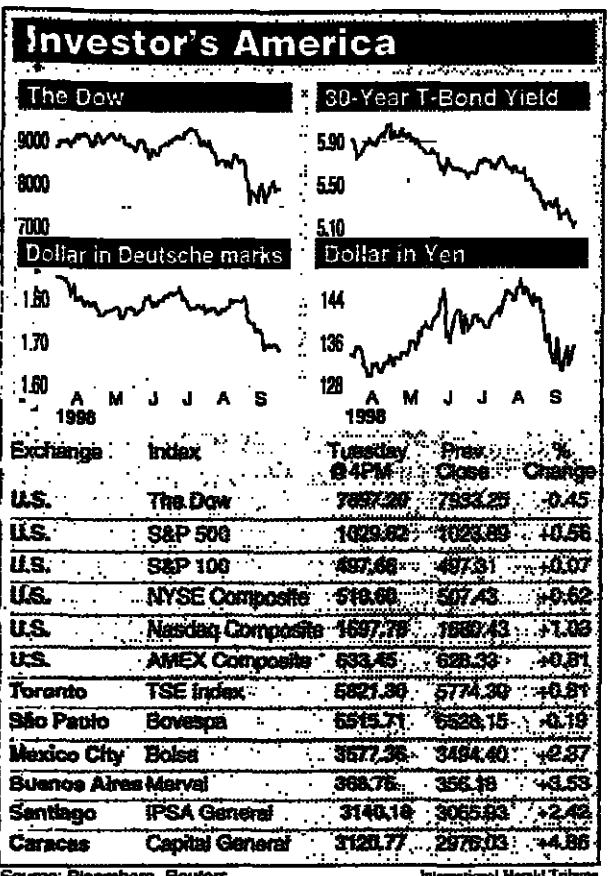
"The market is unbelievably competitive," said Chrysler Corp.'s chairman, Robert Eaton. "There's never been a period when incentives were this high and the economy and the market were as good as they are now."

In the first 20 days of September, dealer and manufacturer incentives averaged \$3,664 for each vehicle sold, according to CNW Marketing

Research. That was up 21 percent from \$3,022 a year earlier.

General Motors Corp. began another round of big rebates last week on 1998 and 1999 models, ranging from \$500 on several cars and vans to \$5,000 on the 1998 Cadillac DeVille Concours. As an alternative, GM offers financing rates as low as 0.9 percent.

GM's rebates are aimed at recovering market share that the company lost after two strikes all but halted its North American production in June and July.



Very briefly:

- UAL Corp.'s United Airlines named James Goodwin, a veteran employee, as its new president and chief operating officer in a move aimed at pleasing unions at America's largest employee-owned company.
- Nomura Securities Co., Japan's biggest brokerage, will inject \$380 million in capital into its U.S.-based holding company, Nomura Holdings America. Capital Co. of America, a Nomura Holdings unit, has losses of about \$200 million on loans, people familiar with the firm have said.
- Tyco International Ltd. agreed to buy Graphic Controls Corp., a maker of disposable medical and surgical products, from Bessemer Holdings LP for \$460 million.
- The U.S. Senate rejected a proposed \$1 increase, to \$6.15, in the federal hourly minimum wage.
- Brazil is discussing policy options with officials from the International Monetary Fund, but sources said Latin America's largest economy had not asked the IMF for financial assistance.
- Compaq Computer Corp. said Asian sales this year would be lower than it expected because of the region's financial crisis. Asia made up about 5 percent of Compaq's \$24.6 billion in revenue last year.

The Trib Index				
Prices as of 4:00 P.M. New York time.				
	Jan. 1, 1992 = 100	Level	Change	% change
World Index	168.19		+2.39	+1.44
Regional Indexes				
Asia/Pacific	68.62		-0.05	-0.07
Europe	200.21		+5.87	+2.91
N. America	233.83		+0.08	+0.04
S. America	75.01		+2.50	+3.45
Industrial Indexes				
Capital goods	230.01		+1.42	+0.62
Consumer goods	210.90		+1.49	+0.71
Energy	189.10		+2.59	+1.39
Finance	108.70		+2.64	+2.49
Miscellaneous	136.37		+4.71	+3.58
Raw Materials	159.03		+1.49	+0.95
Service	181.75		+4.08	+2.28
Utilities	157.30		+1.49	+0.95

The International Herald Tribune World Stock Index tracks the U.S. dollar value of 280 internationally investible stocks from 25 countries.

Compiled by Bloomberg News.

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AMEX

Tuesday's 4 P.M. Close
The 200 most traded stocks of the day, up to the closing on Wall Street.
The Associated Press.

Stock	High	Low	Open	Close
IBM	112 1/2	112 1/4	112 1/4	112 1/2
Microsoft	109 3/4	109 1/4	109 1/4	109 3/4
Oracle	54 1/2	54 1/4	54 1/4	54 1/2
Amazon.com	88 3/4	88 1/4	88 1/4	88 3/4
Yahoo	102 15/16	102 1/2	102 1/2	102 15/16
Alibaba	15 1/2	15 1/4	15 1/4	15 1/2
Google	27 1/2	27 1/4	27 1/4	27 1/2
Facebook	35 1/2	35 1/4	35 1/4	35 1/2
Twitter	13 1/2	13 1/4	13 1/4	13 1/2
LinkedIn	18 1/2	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/2
Slack	22 1/2	22 1/4	22 1/4	22 1/2
Dropbox	15 1/2	15 1/4	15 1/4	15 1/2
Evernote	12 1/2	12 1/4	12 1/4	12 1/2
OneDrive	10 1/2	10 1/4	10 1/4	10 1/2
Box.com	8 1/2	8 1/4	8 1/4	8 1/2
Dropbox	6 1/2	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/2
Evernote	5 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/2
OneDrive	4 1/2	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/2
Box.com	3 1/2	3 1/4	3 1/4	3 1/2
Dropbox	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/2
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
Dropbox	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Evernote	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2
OneDrive	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4
Box.com	1 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2</

EUROPE

Card Unit Of Barclays To Cut 1,100

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Barclaycard, the credit-card business of Barclays PLC, said Tuesday it would cut 1,100 jobs over the next three years as it invested in customer-service technology.

Barclaycard said it would spend £30 million (\$50.4 million) to improve its automated service systems while cutting its work force of 4,400. The moves follow an 18-month review of the credit-card business, in which Barclays is the leading bank in Britain.

"I very much regret that we will be losing jobs over the next few years, but I am afraid that this will be unavoidable," Bob Potts, chief executive of Barclaycard, said.

Mark Williamson, a banking analyst at Albert E. Sharp in Birmingham, said, "This is a way for them to remain at the cutting edge."

Barclaycard shares rose 22 pence to close at £10.54.

Analysts said that while Barclaycard still dominated the British credit-card business, other U.K. banks and international credit-card providers such as MBNA Corp. of the United States were making inroads.

"Barclaycard is clearly under a lot of pressure, and they've had to react to defend their leadership position," said John-Paul Crutchley, a banking analyst at Credit Lyonnais Securities Ltd.

Barclaycard contributed about 12.5 percent of Barclays' first-half profit, Mr. Crutchley said. The bank said in May that operating profit at Barclaycard fell 11 percent last year, to £253 million.

Despite the intense competition in the card market, Mr. Potts said that with just 39 percent of British adults in possession of a credit card, the potential for growth was enormous.

Barclaycard is also looking to expand overseas and has just entered France; it also operates in Germany.

The brunt of Barclaycard's job losses will come in Northampton, England, where more than 400 jobs will go. A further 300 job cuts are earmarked for Manchester and Tooting, 70 for Birmingham and 100 for Kirby, near Liverpool.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFP)

Paris to Create Retirement Fund

Bloomberg News

PARIS — France is creating a special fund to ensure that the state pension system will be able to pay pensions to the increasing number of retirees, the finance minister said Tuesday.

Martine Aubry, the social affairs minister, outlined the plan contained in the 1999 social security budget to labor union and employer representatives on the Social Security Accounts Commission before presenting the plan to the cabinet Oct. 7.

Like many other countries that experienced a surge in the birth rates in the 15 years after World War II, France will probably have trouble paying retirement benefits in the future because the number of retirees is growing and the number of people working and contributing to the pension system is declining.

"This is a major consideration for the nation," said Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the finance minister. Known as the Fond de Solidarité de Veilles, the fund will get an initial lump sum from the Caisse d'Epargne, a savings-bank network. That lump sum could reach 20 billion francs (\$3.5 billion), according to news reports.

Additional funds, adding up to "tens of billions of francs in reserves" for the fund, will be supplied by various arms of the social-security system that have surpluses.

Money repaid by French companies for cash injections they received from the state will also go into the reserves of the new fund.

using to the pension system is declining. France has no private pension system.

"This is a major consideration for the nation," said Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the finance minister.

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Money repaid by French companies for cash injections they received from the state will also go into the reserves of the new fund.

"Accumulating reserves from now on will be insufficient to fund the liability that will appear after 2005," said Eric Chaney, joint head of economic research for the euro zone at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

■ **3.1% Growth Expected**

The French economy is expected to expand by 3.1 percent this year and 2.9 percent next year, the IMF will report at the end of the month, Mr. Strauss-Kahn said Tuesday according to an Agence France-Presse report.

According to the International Monetary Fund forecasts to be published Sept. 30, France's gross domestic product growth in 1999 is to be slightly higher than the 2.7 percent predicted by the government, Mr. Strauss-Kahn said.

SAir Plans Air Littoral Investment

Bloomberg News

MONTPELLIER, France — SAirGroup, the parent company of Swissair AG, said Tuesday it had agreed to buy 44 percent of Air Littoral SA, France's largest regional carrier, to enlarge its Qualiflyer alliance of European regional airlines.

The parent company of Europe's fifth-largest airline did not give financial details of the transaction, which allows Air Littoral to join SAir's eight other European partners. The move will reduce the holding of Michel Seydoux, a French businessman, in Air Littoral to 50.1 percent from 93 percent.

The sale comes as competition intensifies in France, Europe's largest passenger market, following the opening of the European aviation market last year. The government plans to sell shares in Air France SA, until recently a perennial money-loser, and AOM, France's second-largest carrier, is up for sale. British Airways PLC bought Air Liberté SA in 1996.

The transaction caps Air Littoral's search for a larger and financially stronger partner. Recent press reports called Brit Air, Air France's largest regional partner, the favorite to link up with Air Littoral.

The move allows Air Littoral to join the Qualiflyer alliance, which includes AOM, Austrian Airlines, Crossair, Lauda Air AG, Sabena SA, TAP Air Portugal, Turkish Airlines and Tyrolean Airlines.

Air Littoral's sales more than doubled to 1.4 billion French francs (\$248.6 million) last year, and the carrier invested in a second hub, in Nice. In February, it reordered five Canadair regional jets for about \$100 million, having canceled the order in October amid concern about the financial impact of a strike by its pilots that month.

Air Littoral has a fleet of 35 planes and offers 280 daily flights. Last year, it transported more than 2 million passengers.

Lufthansa AG has a code-sharing agreement with Air Littoral. Lufthansa last year bought convertible bonds valued at 56 million francs and has the right to buy as much as 15 percent of Air Littoral's capital, but it recently said it had no plans to buy a stake in the carrier.

(Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

Iberia Confirms Long-Haul Airbus Order

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MADRID — Iberia Lines Aerias SA confirmed Tuesday that it had ordered six new Airbus Industrie A340 planes and taken an option on five others.

The first of the new long-haul planes, in a deal valued at more than 200 billion pesetas (\$1.4 billion), is due to be delivered in 1999, with two to follow in 2000, three in 2001 and the rest by 2003 if Iberia exercises its option.

Iberia said the purchase was conditioned on a cost-cutting agreement with its main pilot union. The pilots union said Monday that it would

strike Dec. 15 if the airline did not meet its terms for a new contract within a month, La Vanguardia newspaper reported Tuesday.

The jets are to replace five DC-10s made by McDonnell Douglas Corp. and to be used to expand the Spanish flag carrier's service in Latin America, Japan and South Africa.

The long-distance fleet renewal follows a 400 billion-peseta deal with Airbus this year to replace its short-haul fleet with as many as 76 medium-range Airbus jets.

Modernizing and reducing the number of aircraft types is a key to Iberia's cost-cutting plans, which are

aimed at making itself more attractive to investors before an initial public offering planned for early next year. The government will sell 5 percent stakes to British Airways PLC and AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, which have signed a marketing and booking alliance with Iberia.

Thirty percent of the company will be sold to Spanish companies, with additional shares sold to the public.

"They're obviously getting their feet in order ahead of the public offering," said Doug McVitie, managing director of Arria Aerospace, an aviation consultancy in Scotland. (Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

Fiat Profit Falls, Hurt by Brazil and East Asia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TURIN — Financial turmoil in Asia and Brazil cut into Fiat SpA's first-half profit, the Italian automaker reported Tuesday.

Pretax profit fell 11.5 percent from a year earlier, to 2 trillion lire (\$1.19 billion). Sales rose 8 percent, to 46.74 trillion lire, but operating profit dropped 28 percent, to 1.3 trillion lire.

Fiat said full-year results would also be lower, especially for its main

auto business, as market conditions deteriorated further in the second half. Fiat Auto's first-half revenue rose 3 percent, to 26.24 trillion lire, and its sales of cars and commercial vehicles fell to 1.35 million from 1.36 million.

Fiat said the financial crises in emerging markets had made competition from Asian producers more intense.

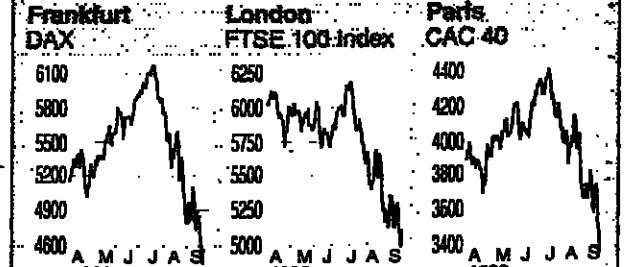
"In particular, we do not expect any substantial improvements in the

principal markets of interest for Fiat Auto, and in fact, we expect a worsening in regards to Brazil," the company said.

Fiat Auto sales fell 20 percent in Brazil, but they rose 7 percent in Western Europe and Poland. Fiat said it expected European sales to continue to rise through the end of the year.

The earnings report was issued after the stock market closed. (AFP, AFX, Reuters)

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Tuesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	AEX	945.89	902.62	+4.57
Basel	BEL-20	3,002.24	3,008.35	-0.20
Frankfurt	DAX	4,575.15	4,433.87	+3.18
Copenhagen	Stock Market	582.46	576.45	+1.04
Helsinki	HEX General	4,002.74	3,878.51	+3.18
Oslo	OSEX	464.91	446.48	+4.13
London	FTSE 100	5,103.30	4,990.30	+2.29
Madrid	Stock Exchange	674.68	651.97	+3.48
Milan	MBTEL	1,891.4	1,827.77	+3.49
Paris	CAC 40	3,347.98	3,342.65	+0.16
Stockholm	Stock 15	3,207.27	3,179.03	+0.88
Vienna	ATX	1,097.16	1,079.29	+2.22
Zurich	SIX	3,886.22	3,832.46	+1.40

Source: Reuters International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- Tesco PLC, Britain's leading supermarket operator, is to invest about £500 million (\$840 million) in building 22 stores and renovating others this year, creating about 10,000 jobs. Its pretax profit for the 24 weeks ended Aug. 15 was £365 million, up from £346 million a year earlier.
- Electra Fleming, an investment-management company, bought Deutsche Woolworth GmbH for 950 million Deutsche marks (\$562 million) as part of a management buyout. Deutsche Woolworth is part of Venator Group Inc., the former Woolworth Corp.
- Hoechst AG, Germany's third-largest drugs and chemicals maker, named Claudio Sonder as its management board member in charge of industrial chemicals, succeeding Uitz-Helmuth Felcht, who left to become chief executive of SKW Trostberg AG.
- France's July trade surplus slipped to 1.07 billion francs (\$2.5 billion) from a revised 14.70 billion francs in June, hurt by a drop in sales of Airbus airplanes, although falling import prices helped cushion the decline.
- France's finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said the door was open for Coca-Cola Co. to buy Pernod Ricard SA's Orangina unit if it could satisfy antitrust authorities. France rejected Coca's bid last week.
- Russia will raise its asking price for two state-controlled companies, the oil producer RAO Rosneft and the telephone holding company AO Svyazinvest, after the recent plunge of the ruble cut their prices in dollar terms by more than half.
- Price Waterhouse agreed to pay \$95 million to settle all claims against itself related to the Bank of Credit & Commerce International scandal of 1991. The accounting and auditing firm did not admit or accept any liability in reaching the settlement. (Reuters, Bloomberg, AFP)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Daily prices in local currencies.

Telecom

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam

AEX index: 945.89

Prev.: 902.62

ABN-AMRO

36.30 34.90 36.10 34.90

Alcatel

14.10 13.80 14.00 13.80

ASML

70.00 67.00 67.50 65.00

ASML

31.40 30.80 31.00 30.80

ASML

14.50 14.20 14.30 14.00

ASML

23.00 22.40 22.60 22.40

ASML

47.00 46.40 46.60 46.40

ASML

12.00 11.80 11.90 11.80

ASML

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ASML

11.40 11.20 11.30 11.20

High Low Close Prev.

Frankfurt

DAX index: 4,575.15

Prev.: 4,433.87

Adidas

240.00 238.00 239.00 237.00

Adidas

169.00 167.00 168.00 166.00

Adidas

28.00 27.80 27.90 27.70

Adidas

10.00 9.80 9.90 9.70

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Adidas

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ABC

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Continued on Page 17

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BLANCPAIN

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姓名	性别	年龄	籍贯	职业	住址	备注
王德胜	男	45	山东	农民	山东烟台	
李德胜	男	40	河北	工人	河北保定	
张德胜	男	35	河南	商人	河南郑州	
赵德胜	男	30	江苏	学生	江苏南京	
刘德胜	男	25	浙江	医生	浙江杭州	
陈德胜	男	20	安徽	教师	安徽合肥	
周德胜	男	15	江西	学生	江西九江	
吴德胜	男	10	福建	学生	福建福州	
孙德胜	男	5	广东	学生	广东广州	
朱德胜	男	1	广西	学生	广西桂林	
徐德胜	男	1	四川	学生	四川成都	
马德胜	男	1	云南	学生	云南昆明	
冯德胜	男	1	贵州	学生	贵州贵阳	
何德胜	男	1	湖南	学生	湖南长沙	
罗德胜	男	1	湖北	学生	湖北武汉	
宋德胜	男	1	陕西	学生	陕西西安	
高德胜	男	1	山西	学生	山西太原	
林德胜	男	1	内蒙古	学生	内蒙古呼和浩特	
周德胜	男	1	辽宁	学生	辽宁沈阳	
吴德胜	男	1	吉林	学生	吉林长春	
孙德胜	男	1	黑龙江	学生	黑龙江哈尔滨	
朱德胜	男	1	新疆	学生	新疆乌鲁木齐	
徐德胜	男	1	西藏	学生	西藏拉萨	
马德胜	男	1	青海	学生	青海西宁	
冯德胜	男	1	宁夏	学生	宁夏银川	
何德胜	男	1	甘肃	学生	甘肃兰州	
罗德胜	男	1	四川	学生	四川成都	
宋德胜	男	1	重庆	学生	重庆重庆	
高德胜	男	1	云南	学生	云南昆明	
林德胜	男	1	贵州	学生	贵州贵阳	
周德胜	男	1	湖南	学生	湖南长沙	
吴德胜	男	1	湖北	学生	湖北武汉	
孙德胜	男	1	陕西	学生	陕西西安	
朱德胜	男	1	山西	学生	山西太原	
徐德胜	男	1	内蒙古	学生	内蒙古呼和浩特	
马德胜	男	1	辽宁	学生	辽宁沈阳	
冯德胜	男	1	吉林	学生	吉林长春	
何德胜	男	1	黑龙江	学生	黑龙江哈尔滨	
罗德胜	男	1	新疆	学生	新疆乌鲁木齐	
宋德胜	男	1	西藏	学生	西藏拉萨	
高德胜	男	1	青海	学生	青海西宁	
林德胜	男	1	宁夏	学生	宁夏银川	
周德胜	男	1	甘肃	学生	甘肃兰州	
吴德胜	男	1	四川	学生	四川成都	
孙德胜	男	1	重庆	学生	重庆重庆	
朱德胜	男	1	云南	学生	云南昆明	
徐德胜	男	1	贵州	学生	贵州贵阳	
马德胜	男	1	湖南	学生	湖南长沙	
冯德胜	男	1	湖北	学生	湖北武汉	
何德胜	男	1	陕西	学生	陕西西安	
罗德胜	男	1	山西	学生	山西太原	
宋德胜	男	1	内蒙古	学生	内蒙古呼和浩特	
高德胜	男	1	辽宁	学生	辽宁沈阳	
林德胜	男	1	吉林	学生	吉林长春	
周德胜	男	1	黑龙江	学生	黑龙江哈尔滨	
吴德胜	男	1	新疆	学生	新疆乌鲁木齐	
孙德胜	男	1	西藏	学生	西藏拉萨	
朱德胜	男	1	青海	学生	青海西宁	
徐德胜	男	1	宁夏	学生	宁夏银川	
马德胜	男	1	甘肃	学生	甘肃兰州	
冯德胜	男	1	四川	学生	四川成都	
何德胜	男	1	重庆	学生	重庆重庆	
罗德胜	男	1	云南	学生	云南昆明	
宋德胜	男	1	贵州	学生	贵州贵阳	
高德胜	男	1	湖南	学生	湖南长沙	
林德胜	男	1	湖北	学生	湖北武汉	
周德胜	男	1	陕西	学生	陕西西安	
吴德胜	男	1	山西	学生	山西太原	
孙德胜	男	1	内蒙古	学生	内蒙古呼和浩特	
朱德胜	男	1	辽宁	学生	辽宁沈阳	
徐德胜	男	1				

NASDAQ

Tuesday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press

Stock	High	Low	Open	Close	Change
ABC	10.15	9.85	10.00	9.90	-0.10
DEF	15.20	14.80	15.00	14.90	-0.10
GHI	20.30	19.90	20.10	20.00	-0.10
JKL	25.40	24.90	25.20	25.10	-0.10
MNO	30.50	29.90	30.30	30.20	-0.10
PQR	35.60	34.90	35.40	35.30	-0.10
STU	40.70	39.90	40.50	40.40	-0.10
VWX	45.80	44.90	45.60	45.50	-0.10
YZA	50.90	49.90	50.70	50.60	-0.10
BCD	55.00	54.00	54.80	54.70	-0.10
EFG	60.10	59.00	59.90	59.80	-0.10
HIJ	65.20	64.00	65.00	64.90	-0.10
KLM	70.30	69.00	70.10	70.00	-0.10
NOP	75.40	74.00	75.20	75.10	-0.10
QRS	80.50	79.00	80.30	80.20	-0.10
TUV	85.60	84.00	85.40	85.30	-0.10
WXY	90.70	89.00	90.50	90.40	-0.10
XZA	95.80	94.00	95.60	95.50	-0.10
YAB	100.90	99.00	100.70	100.60	-0.10
ZAC	105.00	104.00	104.80	104.70	-0.10
ADB	110.10	109.00	109.90	109.80	-0.10
BEC	115.20	114.00	115.00	114.90	-0.10
CFD	120.30	119.00	120.10	120.00	-0.10
DEG	125.40	124.00	125.20	125.10	-0.10
EFH	130.50	129.00	130.30	130.20	-0.10
FGI	135.60	134.00	135.40	135.30	-0.10
GJH	140.70	139.00	140.50	140.40	-0.10
HKI	145.80	144.00	145.60	145.50	-0.10
ILJ	150.90	149.00	150.70	150.60	-0.10
JLM	155.00	154.00	154.80	154.70	-0.10
KMN	160.10	159.00	159.90	159.80	-0.10
LNO	165.20	164.00	165.00	164.90	-0.10
MOP	170.30	169.00	170.10	170.00	-0.10
NOQ	175.40	174.00	175.20	175.10	-0.10
OPR	180.50	179.00	180.30	180.20	-0.10
QRS	185.60	184.00	185.40	185.30	-0.10
RST	190.70	189.00	190.50	190.40	-0.10
STU	195.80	194.00	195.60	195.50	-0.10
TUV	200.90	199.00	200.70	200.60	-0.10
UVW	205.00	204.00	204.80	204.70	-0.10
VWX	210.10	209.00	209.90	209.80	-0.10
WXY	215.20	214.00	215.00	214.90	-0.10
XYZ	220.30	219.00	220.10	220.00	-0.10
YZA	225.40	224.00	225.20	225.10	-0.10
ZAB	230.50	229.00	230.30	230.20	-0.10
ABC	235.60	234.00	235.40	235.30	-0.10
DEF	240.70	239.00	240.50	240.40	-0.10
GHI	245.80	244.00	245.60	245.50	-0.10
JKL	250.90	249.00	250.70	250.60	-0.10
MNO	255.00	254.00	254.80	254.70	-0.10
PQR	260.10	259.00	259.90	259.80	-0.10
STU	265.20	264.00	265.00	264.90	-0.10
VWX	270.30	269.00	270.10	270.00	-0.10
YZA	275.40	274.00	275.20	275.10	-0.10
ABC	280.50	279.00	280.30	280.20	-0.10
DEF	285.60	284.00	285.40	285.30	-0.10
GHI	290.70	289.00	290.50	290.40	-0.10
JKL	295.80	294.00	295.60	295.50	-0.10
MNO	300.90	299.00	300.70	300.60	-0.10
PQR	305.00	304.00	304.80	304.70	-0.10
STU	310.10	309.00	309.90	309.80	-0.10
VWX	315.20	314.00	315.00	314.90	-0.10
YZA	320.30	319.00	320.10	320.00	-0.10
ABC	325.40	324.00	325.20	325.10	-0.10
DEF	330.50	329.00	330.30	330.20	-0.10
GHI	335.60	334.00	335.40	335.30	-0.10
JKL	340.70	339.00	340.50	340.40	-0.10
MNO	345.80	344.00	345.60	345.50	-0.10
PQR	350.90	349.00	350.70	350.60	-0.10
STU	355.00	354.00	354.80	354.70	-0.10
VWX	360.10	359.00	359.90	359.80	-0.10
YZA	365.20	364.00	365.00	364.90	-0.10
ABC	370.30	369.00	370.10	370.00	-0.10
DEF	375.40	374.00	375.20	375.10	-0.10
GHI	380.50	379.00	380.30	380.20	-0.10
JKL	385.60	384.00	385.40	385.30	-0.10
MNO	390.70	389.00	390.50	390.40	-0.10
PQR	395.80	394.00	395.60	395.50	-0.10
STU	400.90	399.00	400.70	400.60	-0.10
VWX	405.00	404.00	404.80	404.70	-0.10
YZA	410.10	409.00	409.90	409.80	-0.10
ABC	415.20	414.00	415.00	414.90	-0.10
DEF	420.30	419.00	420.10	420.00	-0.10
GHI	425.40	424.00	425.20	425.10	-0.10
JKL	430.50	429.00	430.30	430.20	-0.10
MNO	435.60	434.00	435.40	435.30	-0.10
PQR	440.70	439.00	440.50	440.40	-0.10
STU	445.80	444.00	445.60	445.50	-0.10
VWX	450.90	449.00	450.70	450.60	-0.10
YZA	455.00	454.00	454.80	454.70	-0.10
ABC	460.10	459.00	459.90	459.80	-0.10
DEF	465.20	464.00	465.00	464.90	-0.10
GHI	470.30	469.00	470.10	470.00	-0.10
JKL	475.40	474.00	475.20	475.10	-0.10
MNO	480.50	479.00	480.30	480.20	-0.10
PQR	485.60	484.00	485.40	485.30	-0.10
STU	490.70	489.00	490.50	490.40	-0.10
VWX	495.80	494.00	495.60	495.50	-0.10
YZA	500.90	499.00	500.70	500.60	-0.10
ABC	505.00	504.00	504.80	504.70	-0.10
DEF	510.10	509.00	509.90	509.80	-0.10
GHI	515.20	514.00	515.00	514.90	-0.10
JKL	520.30	519.00	520.10	520.00	-0.10
MNO	525.40	524.00	525.20	525.10	-0.10
PQR	530.50	529.00	530.30	530.20	-0.10
STU	535.60	534.00	535.40	535.30	-0.10
VWX	540.70	539.00	540.50	540.40	-0.10
YZA	545.80	544.00	545.60	545.50	-0.10
ABC	550.90	549.00	550.70	550.60	-0.10
DEF	555.00	554.00	554.80	554.70	-0.10
GHI	560.10	559.00	559.90	559.80	-0.10
JKL	565.20	564.00	565.00	564.90	-0.10
MNO	570.30	569.00	570.10	570.00	-0.10
PQR	575.40	574.00	575.20	575.10	-0.10
STU	580.50	579.00	580.30	580.20	-0.10
VWX	585.60	584.00	585.40	585.30	-0.10
YZA	590.70	589.00	590.50	590.40	-0.10
ABC	595.80	594.00	595.60	595.50	-0.10
DEF	600.90	599.00	600.70	600.60	-0.10
GHI	605.00	604.00	604.80	604.70	-0.10
JKL	610.10	609.00	609.90	609.80	-0.10
MNO	615.20	614.00	615.00	614.90	-0.10
PQR	620.30	619.00	620.10	620.00	-0.10
STU	625.40	624.00	625.20	625.10	-0.10
VWX	630.50	629.00	630.30	630.20	-0.10
YZA	635.60	634.00	635.40	635.30	-0.10
ABC	640.70	639.00	640.50	640.40	-0.10
DEF	645.80	644.00	645.60	645.50	-0.10
GHI	650.90	649.00	650.70	650.60	-0.10
JKL	655.00	654.00	654.80	654.70	-0.10
MNO	660.10	659.00	659.90	659.80	-0.10
PQR	665.20	664.00	665.00	664.90	-0.10
STU	670.30	669.00	670.10	670.00	-0.10
VWX	675.40	674.00	675.20	675.10	-0.10
YZA	680.50	679.00	680.30	680.20	-0.10
ABC	685.60	684.00	685.40	685.30	-0.10
DEF	690.70	689.00	690.50	690.40	-0.10
GHI	695.80	694.00	695.60	695.50	-0.10
JKL	700.90	699.00	700.70	700.60	-0.10
MNO	705.00	704.00	704.80	704.70	-0.10
PQR	710.10	709.00	709.90	709.80	-0.10
STU	715.20	714.00	715.00	714.90	-0.10
VWX	720.30	719.00	720.10	720.00	-0.10
YZA	725.40	724.00	725.20	725.10	-0.10
ABC	730.50	729.00	730.30	730.20	-0.10
DEF	735.60	734.00	735.40	735.30	-0.10
GHI	740.70	739.00	740.50	740.40	-0.10
JKL	745.80	744.00	745.60	745.50	-0.10
MNO	750.90	749.00	750.70	750.60	-0.10
PQR	755.00	754.00	754.80	754.70	-0.10
STU	760.10	759.00	759.90	759.80	-0.10
VWX	765.20	764.00	765.00	764.90	-0.10
YZA	770.30	769.00	770.10	770.00	-0.10
ABC	775.40	774.00	775.20	775.10	-0.10
DEF	780.50	779.00	780.30	780.20	-0.10
GHI	785.60	784.00	785.40	785.30	-0.10
JKL	790.70	789.00	790.50	790.40	-0.10
MNO	795.80	794.00	795.60	795.50	-0.10
PQR	800.90	799.00	800.70	800.60	-0.10
STU	805.00	804.00	804.80	804.70	-0.10
VWX	810.10	809.00	809.90	809.80	-0.10
YZA	815.20	814.00	815.00	814.90	-0.10
ABC	820.30	819.00	820.10	820.00	-0.10
DEF	825.40	824.00	825.20	825.10	-0.10
GHI	830.50	829.00	830.30	830.20	-0.10
JKL	835.60	834.00	835.40	835.30	-0.10
MNO	840.70	839.00	840.50	840.40	-0.10
PQR	845.80	844.00	845.60	845.50	-0.10
STU	850.90	849.00	850.70	850.60	-0.10
VWX	855.00	854.00	854.80	854.70	-0.10
YZA	860.10	859.00	859.90	859.80	-0.10
ABC	865.20	864.00	865.00	864.90	-0.10
DEF	870.30	869.00	870.10	870.00	-0.10
GHI	875.40	874.00	875.20	875.10	-0.10
JKL	880.50	879.00	880.30	880.20	-0.10
MNO	885.60	884.00	885.40	885.30	-0.10
PQR	890.70	889.00	890.50	890.40	-0.10
STU	895.80	894.00	895.60	895.50	-0.10
VWX	900.90	899.00	900.70	900.60	-0.10
YZA	905.00	904.00	904.80	904.70	-0.10
ABC	910.10	909.00	909.90	909.80	-0.10
DEF	915.20	914.00	915.00	914.90	-0.10
GHI	920.30	919.00	920.10	920.00	-0.10
JKL	925.40	924.00	925.20	925.10	-0.10
MNO	930.50	929.00	930.30	930.20	-0.10
PQR	935.60	934.00	935.40	935.30	-0.10
STU	940.70	939.00	940.50	940.40	-0.10
VWX	945.80	944.00	945.60	945.50	-0.10
YZA	950.90	949.00	950.70	950.60	-0.10
ABC	955.00	954.00	954.80	954.70	-0.10
DEF	960.10	959.00	959.90	959.80	-0.10
GHI	965.20	964.00	965.00	964.90	-0.

Bank Stocks In U.S. Lose Takeover Fizz

INTERNATIONAL INVESTING

Bank Stocks In U.S. Lose Takeover Fizz

By Kathleen Day
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Three months ago, the U.S. securities market was defying gravity and financial-service companies were merging at a dizzying speed, prompting many investors to wonder whether they should put their money in bank stocks, especially stocks of several regional banks that looked like promising takeover targets.

Many market analysts and institutional investors said the answer was a resounding yes. First Virginia Bank, Riggs National Corp., Provident Bankshares Corp. and Mercantile Bankshares Corp. were among the names commonly mentioned.

Their stocks commanded a takeover premium — the extra price investors are willing to pay for a stock in anticipation that the price will go up even more when the company is purchased.

But now the market has fallen, new merger announcements have slowed, and the stocks of banks have taken a beating, prompting analysts to be less enthusiastic about the industry and to warn investors that, while there are good buys to be had, investors should use caution.

The banking industry's health tends to reflect the health of the economy, so it is logical that analysts — many of whom are convinced that tougher times are ahead — say expectations about banks' earnings and potential takeover value have been overblown.

The bottom line, they say, is that takeover premiums are essentially gone.

"I think there's still some cloudiness in this market," said David West, bank analyst at Davenport & Co. "On bad market days, bank stocks tend to go down even farther than the market."

Sony and Schwab Discuss Bringing On-Line Trading to Japan

Bloomberg News

TOKYO — Sony Corp., one of the world's biggest consumer-electronics makers, said Tuesday it was in talks with Charles Schwab Corp. and other brokerages to create a venture to enter the on-line brokerage business in Japan.

"We're currently considering how to enter the business the Sony way," said Masayoshi Morimoto, corporate senior vice president at Sony. "No specific plans have been decided."

Banks, brokerage concerns, insurers and other companies are devising products to attract the money that is expected to flow out of low-yielding bank accounts as Japan deregulates its financial industry. Japanese individuals own 1.200 trillion yen (\$8.92 trillion) in financial assets.

"If true, the combination of Sony — a global brand name — and Schwab —

the most successful on-line broker in the U.S. — would be a bigger threat than any of the securities companies that currently offer on-line stock trading services in Japan," said Yoshihiko Kan, manager of the on-line brokerage division at Nomura Securities Co.

As part of Japan's drive to liberalize its financial services industry by December, companies will be able to start a brokerage by simply registering with the Finance Ministry.

Schwab said nothing had been decided concerning its plans for Japan. "Japan is one of a number of countries we're looking at to expand our future growth opportunities," said Gloria Lau, president of Charles Schwab, Asia & Americas, in Tokyo.

Analysts said they were not surprised Sony wanted to diversify. The com-

pany, which entered the life-insurance business in 1981 through its wholly owned subsidiary Sony Life Insurance Co., said in July it would enter the car-insurance business next year.

By 2002, Asia is due to have 50 million Internet users, half of them in Japan.

"Sony has to find a way to survive in the digital interactive network business," said Hitoshi Kuriyama, a senior analyst at Merrill Lynch Japan Inc. "If it can't do so by producing hardware, it will look to providing software or financial information."

Schwab's moves in Japan have been closely watched since E*Trade Group — the second-largest U.S. on-line discount broker — said it would offer stock-trading services in a joint venture

with Softbank Corp., a Japanese computer-software wholesaler.

Schwab, which is based in San Francisco, was founded in 1971 and became a pioneer in the discount-brokerage business when the United States eased rules on trading commissions in 1975. Schwab has 279 sales offices in the United States.

Roughly 25 percent of all securities transactions are done via the Internet in the United States. On-line trading has not caught on in Japan yet, where complete liberalization of commissions will not be allowed until next year.

"Companies offering on-line trading now are doing so as an advance investment, to stake their claim on the market ahead of the full liberalization in trading commissions planned for 1999," said Sadakazu Ohsaki, senior

analyst at Nomura Institute of Research.

Nineteen Japanese brokerages already offer on-line trading and investment information on the Internet, and many other firms — including foreign on-line brokers — are expected to enter the market before commissions are fully liberalized.

"In Asia, it's estimated that there are over 20 million Internet users, about one-third of them in Japan," Mrs. Lau said. "By the year 2002, Asia is expected to have 50 million users in a conservative estimate, with 40 percent to 50 percent of those in Japan."

She added: "Many estimate that by the end of this year, Japan will become the second-largest Internet market in the world, after the United States."

Schwab is also interested in offering its services in Taiwan, Brazil, Mexico and the Philippines, Mrs. Lau said.

Russian Collapse Hits Trade Partner Turkey

By Christopher de Bellaigue
Washington Post Service

ANKARA — Seven weeks after Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz called early elections on the strength of his government's economic track record, Turkey is trying to weather the fallout from the economic collapse in Russia, its principal trading partner.

Until this summer, Turkish officials were predicting that the country would escape the economic contagion spreading from Southeast Asia. As of midyear, the economy had seen three years of steady growth, and the Yilmaz government's anti-inflation policies had won the approval of the International Monetary Fund and brought foreign investors flocking.

But Russia's festering economic problems already had begun to erode Turkey's strong base, and the recent Russian financial collapse and the free fall of the ruble have sent shock waves southward.

According to recent government figures, Turkey's official trade with Russia declined 15 percent in the first half of this year. The unofficial export of textiles and other goods to Russia and other former Soviet Bloc countries, which earned the Turks around \$8.5 billion in foreign exchange two years ago, is expected to

bring in little more than \$4 billion in 1998.

Overall, Turkey has seen its trade deficit grow to \$7.5 billion in the first half of this year. In addition, internal commerce is undergoing a cyclical slowdown, analysts say. Concerns have gradually spread among investors, who looked to Mr. Yilmaz to implement policies that might halt the economic slide.

On Monday, the prime minister announced a package of tax incentives designed to spur investment in Istanbul's stock market, which has lost 57 percent of its volume in the last two months as investors have fled what they perceive as another emerging market in decline. The government will exempt stocks held for three months or longer from income taxes, and fund portfolios of foreign investors will be fully exempt from corporate taxes, Bloomberg Financial News reported.

Mr. Yilmaz did not announce, however, the postponement of a tax to be imposed on stock capital gains next year, a measure that investors had eagerly anticipated.

The Istanbul 100 stock index — which rose 18.5 percent on Friday on the expectation that Mr. Yilmaz would delay the capital-gains tax — fell Monday but rose 9.4 percent Tuesday. Still, in the face of such news, many Turks are puzzled that Mr. Yilmaz and his partners in the

15-month-old coalition government insist on holding elections next April, well over a year before the current parliamentary term runs out.

"It is impossible to remain unaffected by unfavorable global events, but introducing new taxes and the current election atmosphere have contributed to the stock-market slide," said Turan Sarigulle, who has seen the market value of his company, UKI Konfeksyon, plummet since mid-June.

Mr. Yilmaz's policies have been credited with pushing down wholesale-price inflation from a rate of 91 percent last December to 67 percent, and delaying elections would, some analysts say, give him the chance to push ahead with more of the reforms approved by the IMF in June.

While Mr. Yilmaz has said he has an open mind on the subject, many lawmakers in the coalition say they oppose rescheduling the elections. Although early polls might unseat the coalition if the economy does not turn around, an opposition leader has said he favors delaying the vote. The Virtue Party, which was formed largely by former members of the Islamic-based Welfare Party after Welfare was outlawed in January, might support delaying the elections until the end of 2000, according to party leader Recai Kutan.

SINCLAIR ALL ASIA FUND SICAV

69, Route d'Esch,
L-1470 LUXEMBOURG
R.C. Luxembourg - B-55.708

Notice is hereby given to the shareholders, that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of shareholders of SINCLAIR ALL ASIA FUND will be held at the registered office of the fund on October 1st, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. with the following agenda:

1. Submission of the Reports of the Board of Directors and of the Independent Auditor;
2. Approval of the Statement of Net Assets and of the Statement of Operations for the year ended as at June 30, 1998;
3. Allocation of the net results;
4. Discharge to the Directors;
5. Statutory Appointments;
6. Miscellaneous.

The Shareholders are advised that no quorum is required for the items on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting and that decisions will be taken on a simple majority of the shares present or represented at the Meeting with the following exceptions:

In order to attend the Meeting of SINCLAIR ALL ASIA FUND the owners of bearer shares will have to deposit their shares five clear days before the Meeting with Banque Internationale à Luxembourg, 69, route d'Esch, L-1470 Luxembourg.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Advertisement

For information please contact:
Katy Hour: Fax (33-1) 41 43 82 12 or e-mail: fund@hnt.com

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Wust Takes a Stage

CYCLING Marcel Wust of Germany and the Festina team won the 17th stage of the Tour of Spain on Tuesday, and Abraham Olano of Spain and the Banesto team stayed atop the overall standings.

Wust sprinted past the finish line at the head of the pack, having covered the 188.5-kilometer (116.9-mile) run between the northern cities of Burgos and Leon in 4 hours 55 minutes 33 seconds.

Olano remained in the No. 1 spot, 22 seconds ahead of his nearest rival, Laurent Jalabert of France and the ONCE-Deutsche Bank squad.

The 18th stage on Wednesday, a 233-kilometer ride from Leon to Salamanca, is a flat run. (AP)

Nuggets Hire D'Antoni

BASKETBALL The Denver Nuggets, coming off one of the worst seasons in NBA history, hired Mike D'Antoni as their head coach on Tuesday.

D'Antoni, who joined the Nuggets as director of player personnel last year after coaching in the Italian League for seven seasons, becomes Denver's seventh coach in this decade. He replaces Bill Hamel, who was dismissed after an 11-71 season.

D'Antoni, who briefly served as interim general manager last season, was hired by the team's general manager, Dan ISELL, who took over the team in March.

Before joining the Nuggets, D'Antoni compiled a 141-68 coaching record with Benetton and Milan of the Italian League. His teams made the playoffs each season, and Benetton won the 1997 Italian League Championship. (AP)

Little Goes a Long Way

RUGBY Jason Little scored a record-equaling four tries Tuesday to help Australia qualify for the Rugby World Cup with a 74-0 victory over Tonga.

Little, a winger, matched Australia's record for tries in a test, as the Wallabies scored 12 touchdowns to run away with the second-round Pacific qualifying tournament game and better their 66-20 triumph over Fiji in the opening round in Sydney last week.

In the opening match Tuesday at Bruce Stadium in Canberra, Fiji beat Western Samoa, 26-18.

Little equaled the four tries scored by Greg Cornelsen against New Zealand in 1978 and David Campese against the United States in 1983.

While Little went in the record books, the Australians just missed their all-time record 76-0 victory over England set earlier this year and fell one try short of their record for a test, scored against South Korea in the 1987 World Cup.

The victory virtually guaranteed that Australia will finish on top of the four-nation Pacific tournament and qualify for the World Cup's Pool E based in Ireland. (AP)

Clemens Wins No. 20 And His 15th Straight

The Associated Press

Roger Clemens won his 20th game of the year and his 15th straight, striking out 15 Baltimore Orioles in eight innings as the Toronto Blue Jays coasted to a 3-1 victory.

Among the victims on Monday night in Toronto was Cal Ripken, who was back in action a day after ending his streak of 2,632 consecutive games.

Clemens (20-6), bidding for a record fifth Cy Young Award, has the longest winning streak in the majors since Gaylord Perry won 15 straight in 1974.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

For Cleveland, Clemens started the season 5-6, but is unbeaten in 21 starts dating back to May 29.

Clemens tied Atlanta's Tom Glavine for the major league lead in victories, improving his league-best strikeout total to 260 and his earned-run average to 2.58.

Clemens pitched eight innings, allowing seven hits and three walks. Shawn Green hit his 33d home run and Carlos Delgado hit his 35th for a 2-0 Toronto lead in the third.

Rangers 9, Angels 1 Behind Todd Stottlemyre, visiting Texas took a one-game lead over Anaheim in the American League West by beating the Angels.

Rusty Greer had four hits and Juan Gonzalez got his 155th and 156th runs batted in of the season as Texas won the opener of the three-game series. Stottlemyre (5-4) gave up six hits, walked four and struck out seven in seven scoreless innings.

He beat the Angels for the second time in six days.

Red Sox 4, Devil Rays 3 Devil Rays 3, Red Sox 4 Boston dropped the second game of a doubleheader when Bubba Francell homered and drove in five runs for Tampa Bay.

In the opener, Keith Mitchell singled in the tiebreaking run in the sixth for his first RBI of the season and Tom Gordon extended his major league, single-season record of 40 successful save conversions.

Bret Saberhagen (15-7) won the first game and Tony Saunders (6-15) took the loss. Boston's John Valentin hit his 23rd homer. Terrell Wade (1-0) won the second game. Carlos Reyes (1-1) was the loser. Mo Vaughn hit his 38th homer for Boston.

Indians 4, Yankees 1 Enrique Wilson hit his first grand slam, leading Cleveland past host New York in a matchup of division champions.

The Indians, who beat New York in the first round of the playoffs last year, are 4-4 this year against the Yankees with three games remaining.

Charles Nagy (15-10) allowed five hits in eight innings and Paul Shuey got three outs for his second save. New York's Andy Pettitte (16-11) gave up eight hits and four runs in seven innings.

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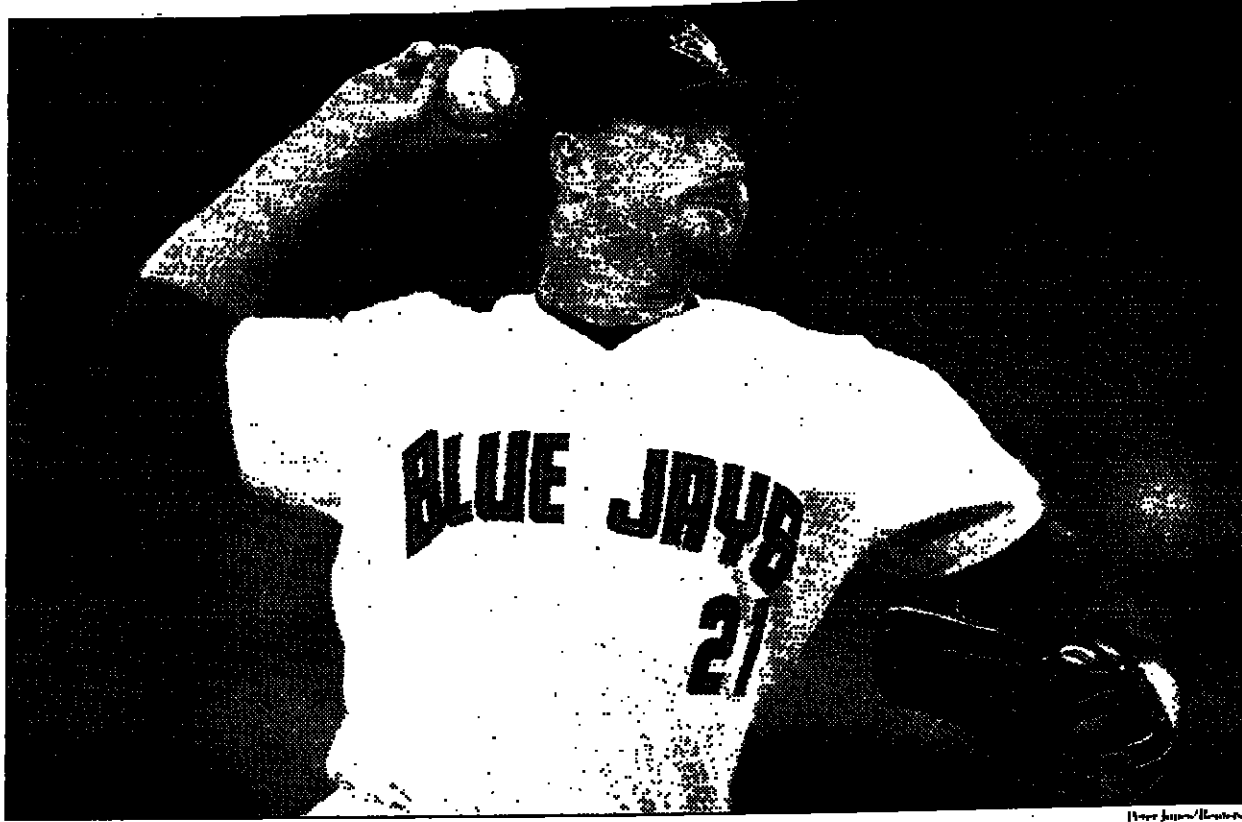
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Roger Clemens fogging a pitch past the Orioles as he won his 20th game, while recording 15 strikeouts.

Chicago, limiting host Minnesota to one run and six hits in six innings.

Chicago's Ray Durham scored three runs to take over the league lead with 123, one ahead of New York's Derek Jeter.

Tigers 7, Royals 5 In Kansas City, Joe Randa scored the go-ahead run on Scott Service's wild pitch in the eighth inning as Detroit beat Kansas City.

Dean Crow (2-2) was the winner, and Todd Jones got the last three outs for his 27th save. Service (6-4) took the loss.

Mariners 5, Athletics 2 In Seattle, two pinch-hitters, Rob Ducey and Charles Gipsen, had consecutive RBIs in a three-run eighth as Seattle beat Oakland.

Ducey doubled off Gil Heredia (3-3) to give Seattle a 3-2 lead and Gipsen followed with a single off Buddy Groom.

In the National League: **Reds 8, Phillies 5** Tony Tarasco's pinch-hit grand slam in the seventh inning lifted Cincinnati to victory over

visiting Philadelphia.

Scott Sullivan (5-5) got the victory in relief and Danny Graves got his seventh save.

Giants 8, Pirates 1 In San Francisco, Jeff Kent hit a three-run homer and Orel Hersher (10-10) pitched seven strong innings to break a six-start winless streak, leading the Giants past Pittsburgh.

Kent has 30 home runs and 122 RBIs. Joe Carter also homered for San Francisco.

Ripken's Record Dominated Orioles

By Buster Olney
New York Times Service

BALTIMORE — Not long after Cal Ripken surpassed Lou Gehrig's consecutive-game record on Sept. 6, 1995, a consensus began building among the Baltimore Orioles' staff and front office officials that the team would be better off if the streak ended. The goal was simple: to restore the normal hierarchy that governs a sports team.

With other teams, the pecking order ranks as follows: owner, baseball executives, manager, players. With the Orioles, Ripken loomed over everyone, untouchable because of the magnitude of his record and the popularity it provided him.

His recent managers, from Phil Regan to Davey Johnson to Ray Miller, never seriously considered benching him unilaterally.

The idea was bandied about constantly by club officials. In a meeting before the All-Star Game break in July, an Orioles official announced his belief that the team would never win a World Series championship until Ripken's record and corollary autonomy ended.

"This record has nothing to do with the team," the official told others. "It's only meaning is to Cal."

But the official conceded that no change could be made until Ripken decided to end the streak himself. No one in a position of authority was willing to

throw himself into the path of his legendary willfulness.

Finally, on Sunday night at Camden Yards, Ripken took the responsibility on himself, volunteering to sit out the game against the New York Yankees and thus ending his streak at 2,632 games. He was back in the lineup at third base Monday night, but his record streak, an achievement that gripped the baseball world three years ago and helped restore the sport's popularity after years of divisive labor troubles, had come to an end.

Ripken is so resolute in his approach to playing the game that some of his closest friends on the team said in recent years that they could never imagine him voluntarily removing himself from the lineup — even with the vague knowledge that others in the organization wanted him to sit.

But Ripken is also very protective of his image and well aware of the mounting criticism that his record no longer contained relevance. He had gone far beyond Gehrig's record, his run production was among the worst in the American League and the Orioles had young players waiting in the wings. Whose purpose did it serve to have Ripken play every single game?

A week ago, Peter Angelos, the Orioles' owner, received a phone call from Joe Foss, the team's vice chairman. Foss decided to end the streak himself. No one in a position of authority was willing to

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SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS	W	L	Pct.	ERA
Baltimore	12	7	.630	3.45
Chicago	10	8	.556	3.80
Cleveland	10	8	.556	3.80
Detroit	10	8	.556	3.80
Kansas City	10	8	.556	3.80
Minnesota	10	8	.556	3.80
New York	10	8	.556	3.80
Tampa Bay	10	8	.556	3.80
Texas	10	8	.556	3.80
Toronto	10	8	.556	3.80

CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Like a bucket in an old song	1. Stray animal
2. Cross a shallow creek	2. A in communications
3. Inhabitant's place	3. Retro art style
4. Not high	4. Bioelectric swimmer
5. Toward shelter	5. Madame Bovary's problem
6. Pyle of Mayberry	6. Manage
7. Raton, Fla.	7. Arab Sea nation
8. Part of a quip	8. Doesn't disallow
9. Circumstances	9. Act human
10. Neaters, as a horse	10. Heading on a roll book
11. Part of T.G.I.F.	11. Stable newcomer
12. Cup, part 2	

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	10	8	.556	0
Chicago	10	8	.556	0
Cleveland	10	8	.556	0
Detroit	10	8	.556	0
Kansas City	10	8	.556	0
Minnesota	10	8	.556	0
New York	10	8	.556	0
Tampa Bay	10	8	.556	0
Texas	10	8	.556	0
Toronto	10	8	.556	0

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	10	8	.556	0
Chicago	10	8	.556	0
Cleveland	10	8	.556	0
Detroit	10	8	.556	0
Kansas City	10	8	.556	0
Minnesota	10	8	.556	0
New York	10	8	.556	0
Tampa Bay	10	8	.556	0
Texas	10	8	.556	0
Toronto	10	8	.556	0

JAPANESE LEAGUES

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	10	8	.556	0
Chicago	10	8	.556	0
Cleveland	10	8	.556	0
Detroit	10	8	.556	0
Kansas City	10	8	.556	0
Minnesota	10	8	.556	0
New York	10	8	.556	0
Tampa Bay	10	8	.556	0
Texas	10	8	.556	0
Toronto	10	8	.556	0

RUGBY UNION

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	10	8	.556	0
Chicago	10	8	.556	0
Cleveland	10	8	.556	0
Detroit	10	8	.556	0
Kansas City	10	8	.556	0
Minnesota	10	8	.556	0
New York	10	8	.556	0
Tampa Bay	10	8	.556	0
Texas	10	8	.556	0
Toronto	10	8	.556	0

Solution to Puzzle of Sept. 22

ASSN	ADDUP	ISLE
TUNE	MOOLA	NLER
BROWN	GETTY	SOAR
ALPHA	SERE	TPKS
TYPIING	ALISOP	
BAVE	ROUND	TRON
PIE	GLIM	DEENAY
ADAPTS	BOX	BEST
WELLS	COVOTE	
OSTER	NORMAL	
POST	AIRS	ARISE
ONCE	STEAK	DIANE
OMAR	TIBIA	EMER
MERS	SCALLY	SIRS

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	10	8	.556	0
Chicago	10	8	.556	0
Cleveland	10	8	.556	0
Detroit	10	8	.556	0
Kansas City	10	8	.556	0
Minnesota	10	8	.556	0
New York	10	8	.556	0
Tampa Bay	10	8	.556	0
Texas	10	8	.556	0
Toronto	10	8	.556	0

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	10	8	.556	0
Chicago	10	8	.556	0
Cleveland	10	8	.556	0
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Kansas City	10	8	.556	0
Minnesota	10	8	.556	0
New York	10	8	.556	0
Tampa Bay	10	8	.556	0
Texas	10	8	.556	0
Toronto	10	8	.556	0

JAPANESE LEAGUES

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Minnesota	10	8	.556	0
New York	10	8	.556	0
Tampa Bay	10	8	.556	0
Texas	10	8	.556	0
Toronto	10	8	.556	0

SPORTS

Flo-Jo: Charisma and Controversy

WASHINGTON — From 1984 to 1988, Flo-Jo was not so much a person as an event, some days more than one event, all the time a dizzying package of world-class speed, striking beauty, fashion and, yes, controversy.

There was never really anybody like her before and, with all due respect to Marion Jones, there has not been anybody with her combination of athletic talent and captivating charisma since she essentially retired after the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul.

I was changing flights in Chicago on Monday afternoon when a television network put up a picture of Florence Griffith-Joyner. What was barely audible in the hustle and bustle of one of the world's busiest airports were the words "heart seizure" and "death."

People sitting in the passenger lounge at the gate, and I mean virtually everyone, stopped whatever they were doing and turned to ask others sitting nearby, "Did they say she died?"

It really is unthinkable that a woman who appeared to us the picture of health could just drop dead at 38. So frequently, it seems, it is the heart when athletes die young, the heart being the thing we associate more than anything else — even speed or coordination or strength — with world-class performance.

But then Flo-Jo's 38 years seemed an improbable journey, one so unlikely, in fact, that innuendo and rumor dogged her from her late blooming through her

Vantage Point/MICHAEL WILSON

prime, even as she acquired her first Olympic medal in Los Angeles in 1984, then piled on more four years later.

In all the glitter, it is easy to forget that she had been a journeyman of sorts at the turn of the 1980s, a really good sprinter but no Evelyn Ashford, and hardly someone who would dominate one of her sport's most prized events. She was easing into her mid-20s before she put it all together, some still contend with the help of banned substances.

I remember standing with one of the all-time sprinting greats in Seoul in '88, listening as the rival would point to Flo-Jo, first one muscle, then that ripple, saying she knew Flo-Jo must have taken steroids relatively late in her career to reach the perfect athletic body. I remember the famous sprinter not wanting to talk publicly about it, but blaming everyone, including the news media, for covering up the whole thing about Flo-Jo.

Of course, Flo-Jo never failed a drug test. And when she heard the accusations, she would say that her body changed because she did not get serious about her training regimen until relatively late. And anyway, if male sportswriters were supposed to get to the bottom of those rumors — well, are you kidding me? Most of us melted like hot candle wax when she merely said hello to start an interview.

You could not separate the smoldering aura she projected from her per-

formances; in effect, she would not let you. Jackie Joyner-Kersey I always see in motion, running or long-jumping or throwing. Flo-Jo I always see at the starting line, standing perfectly still two minutes or so before the race, long nails freshly painted and glistening, hair flowing as if her last stop before the stadium had been a salon, and, of course, the outfits. My goodness, the outfits.

Nobody brought glamour to the athletic arena like Florence Griffith-Joyner. Nobody has even been close. She packaged it that way, grabbed your attention and would not let go. She made people see that athletic performance and beauty are not mutually exclusive.

Track and field has never been as hot in America as it was in the months leading up to the Los Angeles Olympics. Oh sure, Carl Lewis and Joyner-Kersey were in the process of becoming invincible. Edwin Moses, Daley Thompson, Ashford, Mary Decker and Roger Kingdom were all in their primes and crowded on center stage by the time the whole road show reached the Los Angeles Coliseum. But nobody created the buzz Flo-Jo did.

In the summer of 1984, I was covering primarily Olympic boxing and I was not supposed to be anywhere near the track-and-field press box. Twice, though, I sneaked in and hid from my editors. Both times Flo-Jo was running. I remember standing on tiptoes trying to



Florence Griffith-Joyner celebrating gold in the 100-meter dash during the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

see over the international reporters who, like me, had stopped covering their swimming or diving or equestrian competitions to come and see her.

Now the talk is of Jones breaking Flo-Jo's records, and undoubtedly if she does not, somebody else will. But it is not the records by which we remember the truly brilliant athletes of any era, it is the impressions. And if Florence Griffith-Joyner left her adoring public anything in her too-short time on earth, it sure was one glorious impression.

Star Defender's Price Can Be a Cross to Bear

LONDON — Like the prize fighter who never believes he loses a bout, only a decision to bad refereeing, Jaap Stam, the most expensive defender in soccer feels cheated.

During the summer, Stam was traded from PSV Eindhoven to Manchester United for \$17 million. That was small

taxation during games, to England where there is seldom a moment's respite from the physical frenzy also takes time and adjustment.

But Stam knows, expects, and he says actually relishes the high tempo, relentless style. He also, by now, knows the unforgiving critical nature of abuse. In Game One, a curtain raiser against

European Soccer/ROB HUGHES

change compared to the fees for forwards — for goalscorers like Ronaldo, Christian Vieri, even like Dwight Yorke — who followed Stam to United and cost in excess of \$20 million.

There is, however, a huge disparity in our perception of a soccer player's worth. Any of those forwards can have a bad game, but if he scores, that erases the falling.

A goal can eclipse the performance in the blink of an eye, two or three raise the profile and the confidence of the player. All his mistakes are forgiven, even overlooked.

The striker is judged on numbers. The higher his market price, the more he can feel self-importance and arrogance, even selfishness. A high transfer fee can be worn like a cloak of pride.

Defense is different. It is negative by essence. Stam's costly valuation forbids him to err. His job is to concentrate for 90 minutes and for 90 games a year if he needs to. One lapse against a keen forward can concede a goal and then, even if Stam is otherwise on top of his game, the crowd, the critics and crucially the manager who persuaded the club to pay for him are on his back.

That \$17 million becomes an albatross. "It is a lot of money for a defender," Stam has conceded in countless interviews, interrogations almost, since his move. Stam stresses the word defender. He likes his role, but during the World Cup he had good games and bad.

AGAINST Belgium he was strong, solid and dependable, as an aggressive defender should be. But he lapsed against Mexico, giving a goal away, he was exposed for pace and conceded a penalty to Yugoslavia, he appeared mesmerized by Brazil's Ronaldo and Rivaldo. Seventeen-million-dollar man? No defender, we reasoned, is worth that.

Stam's wife was expecting their first child, a girl born in August. But who makes allowances for family distractions in a \$17 million defender?

A defender is bought for insurance. Inside his mind a caution grows, and when he is lambasted publicly for errors, he tries to tighten up his defenses even more. A move from Holland, where there are easy games and re-

Arsenal at Wembley, he was caught out, skinned for lack of pace, Doubts became exaggerated, and are becoming more so as United, the club subject to billion dollar takeover bids, struggles for early season form.

Last week in the UEFA Champions League, United threw away a two goal lead and was held 3-3 by Barcelona. Stam revisited by Rivaldo, this time the Brazilian in club colors, gave away another penalty. Well, the referee said he gave away a penalty. Stam, with that boxer's cagey guard, claims that Rivaldo deceived the arbiter with the cunning of his dive.

STILL, this proneness to penalty kicks at crucial moments is looking suspiciously like the habit of a defender weighed by doubt, bad hesitation and cautious by the albatross of his fee.

He wouldn't agree, for off the pitch Stam is a persuasive man. He believes that, at 26, his prime is before him and that, in reasonable time, the task for which he was purchased — to teach English defenders how to create a seamless chord between attack and midfield — will prove its worth.

Experienced judges in Holland agree with him. They say no one in Eindhoven is laughing at the sale of Jaap Stam, that he is class and when the balance of his mind and performances settle Manchester United fans will believe it too.

Unfortunately, even English league soccer is now full of opponents who know Stam's game and know how to exploit him. On Sunday, against Arsenal for a second time and this time for Premiership points, Manchester United was hammered, 3-0. Two Dutchmen, colleagues of Stam at World Cup level, foes at club soccer, used their pace, their movement and their guile to undermine his confidence.

Marc Overmars was exceptional. Dennis Bergkamp was like the Pimpernel, and though neither scored, their elusiveness, and Stam's fault in two of the goals, were heavily contrasted. The cloak of forward pride, the albatross of defensive uncertainty.

Rob Hughes is chief sportswriter at The Times of London

A Century of Memories at Commonwealth Games

KUALA LUMPUR — The next Commonwealth Games will be two years into the next millennium, but the 16 Games in the 20th century have left a legacy of memories.

The final day of the Kuala Lumpur Games on Monday provided minutes of human pain that were compelling but uncomfortable to watch.

In the 50-kilometer walk, Craig Barrett of New Zealand suddenly started reeling, fell, got up, staggered all over the wide road, fell again, got up, and fell once more, a broken figure.

He was a mere kilometer from the finish after beating the field, but Kuala Lumpur's 85 percent humidity, even in the morning hours of a four-hour long race, brought him down.

When New Zealand officials called for an ambulance

to aid him, Govindasamy Saravanan of Malaysia walked past him and went on to win his country's first title.

Indeed, the Kuala Lumpur Games — the first in Asia — produced many memorable performances.

Trinidad's Ato Boldon, confident as ever, spoke of a world 100 meters record, and he came close. England's 40-year-old Judy Oakes won gold at her sixth Games, and a 38-year-old mother of four, Australian Heather Turland, won the women's marathon.

Australians dominated the pool, and Susie O'Neill won a record 10th gold medal in three Games. Malaysia's athletes, on home turf, outdid themselves, with 10 golds, five times as many as they earned in 12 previous Games.

Other Games through the years have produced memories for the record books.

The first Games in 1930 in Hamilton, Ontario, were known as the British Empire Games with 11 nations, none from Asia. The first gold medalist: Canadian triple jumper Spike Smallcombe.

In 1934 in London, India and Hong Kong were the first Asian competitors, and women were in the Games for the first time.

In Sydney 1938, the big star was Australia's Decima Norman — "Dashing Dess" — with five track gold medals. World War II forced cancellation of the 1942 Montreal Games, and they were not resumed until 1950 in Auckland.

In Cardiff in 1958, Herb Elliott, the brilliant Australian who easily won the 880 yards and mile, was the man to watch.

South Africa was missing from the 1962 Perth Games because of its apartheid policy — it had withdrawn from the Commonwealth in 1961. Australian swimmers, led by Dawn Fraser and Murray Rose, dominated the swimming. New Zealand's Olympic champion Peter Snell took the 880 yards-mile double.

In Kingston, Jamaica, in 1966 Kenyan Kip Keino won the mile and beat Australian Ron Clarke in the three miles. Four years later in Edinburgh, Keino — as well as Clarke — were beaten in the 5,000 meters.

Christchurch 1974 featured unknown 20-year-old Tanzanian Filbert Bayi leading from start to finish in the 1,500 meters to break the seven-year-old record set by American Jim Ryun. Australian swimmer Michael Wenden ended his career with a remarkable nine Commonwealth golds. It was not until this year that his record was eclipsed by O'Neill.

In Edmonton 1978, England's Daley Thompson won the first of his three Commonwealth and two Olympic golds, and Brisbane in 1982 crowned Australian runner Raelene Boyle's career.

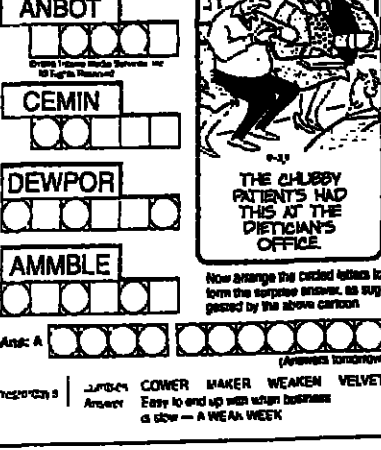
African and Caribbean nations, as well as India and Malaysia, boycotted Edinburgh in 1986 over the Thatcher government's refusal to impose economic sanctions against South Africa. Canada's Ben Johnson won the 100 and two years later the Olympic 100 with a record-breaking dash, only to be disqualified in athletics' most infamous doping scandal.

English sprinter Linford Christie was among the stars in 1990 in Auckland. In 1994, in Victoria, British Columbia, South Africa returned after 36 years. Swimmer Kieren Perkins took five of Australia's record haul of 87 golds.

DENNIS THE MENACE



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PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



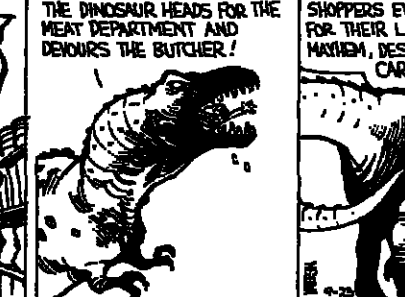
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IRELAND	2.50	1.50	40%
JAPAN	2.50	1.50	40%
MALAYSIA	2.50	1.50	40%
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NORWAY	2.50	1.50	40%
SPAIN	2.50	1.50	40%
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OBSERVER

The Great Meltdown

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — Later, in one of those comically solemn conclaves at which journalists ponder the philosophy of their trade and eat high on the expense account, the news industry will struggle to understand the Great Media Meltdown of 1998.

If I am asked to contribute a monograph, it will tend toward the theory that something akin to road rage occurred in the press corps. This produced actions that were variously foolish, shameful, dangerous to democracy and destructive for the reputation of the news industry.

At the height of the fury — which, let us hope, was the past week — sober commentators considered statements of the trade were writing like pornography to the carriage trade. If the president had abandoned all taste, as it appeared, he carried the knights of the First Amendment with him into the fens of vulgarity.

Newspapers that had once scolded reporters for mildly suggestive language with the warning that "this is a family newspaper" competed with the shabbiest Internet outlets to serve up a rich diet of the lewd and salacious.

All journalistic parties, of course, kept straight faces. The Latin word "genitalia" was seriously overworked. Yes, this was steamy stuff, but no punches could be pulled, no euphemisms allowed to lessen the impact of the facts.

I was tempted to ask, "Why not?" but did not and do not, lest my colleagues think me soft on the president. Hanging judges lurk behind every byline, editorial, TV reporter and talking head.

In the media it is "get the president" time. Calls for his

impeachment or resignation come from dozens of editorialists. Reporters, who once confined themselves to reporting, now speculate about what sentence should be imposed on the sinner Clinton.

What has caused this abandonment of the ancient newsroom codes? Why are the media now in cahoots with Ken Starr to destroy the president?

I suspect an acute case of exasperation. The media, remember, know the score on presidents and tend to become irritated with those who do not know the score. Presidents are serious business; people ought to know the score on them.

Yet, despite all the material they have produced to prove Clinton unworthy, opinion polls still show undiminished public support for his job performance. It is bound to put serious, score-knowing journalists in sour spirits.

Media people nowadays are almost all college boys and girls, cream of the crop, top of the class. Which also means they don't have a lot in common with all those millions to whom jobs and health insurance are more urgent matters than the unorthodox sexual proclivities of big-time politicians.

It must be despair of ever destroying Clinton that has driven the media into their sudden romance with morality. Declaring Clinton morally unfit to be president is hypocrisy at its most hilarious when it comes from employees of vast media empires which thrive on exploitation of sex and violence.

It's not morality that is at issue here. It's the old Puritan love-hate affair with sex. So nasty. So irresistible.

New York Times Service

Spanking New British Library Wins Over Critics

By Sarah Lyall
New York Times Service

LONDON — "As far as history, there is no history here," said Doris Fletcher, speaking of the new British Library, the sparkling, soaring building that has opened near King's Cross to replace the old library, which oozed tradition in the heart of Bloomsbury. "We are starting from scratch."

What Fletcher and others who hold the sought-after reader's passes to the new library's reading rooms have been pondering since their surprisingly emotional move across town is this: How do you weigh history against efficiency? What is better — fading glamour (and the ghosts of Karl Marx and Virginia Woolf) or modernistic beauty and a fighting chance of getting the book you need in an hour, instead of three days?

"Tradition and history might be helpful," said Andrew Wylie, who uses the library to study gender in postwar British theater. "But to have the space to work and easy access to the papers and books you need is infinitely better."

Wylie was full of trepidation about the move, which has been taking place in stages since last fall. He loved the atmosphere at the old library, which occupied a number of rooms in the British Museum. He loved the majestic dome in the Round Reading Room, where he did most of his research and where Dickens, Thackeray and George Bernard Shaw did much of theirs.

"I thought it was a great shame to abandon a purpose-built library like the one in Bloomsbury," he said the other day as he left the new library's Humanities Reading Room, the replacement for the old Round Reading Room. "This could have turned into a disaster. But it's infinitely better. It's light. It's comfortable. It's cool. And most importantly, it takes an average of an hour between ordering and getting a book."

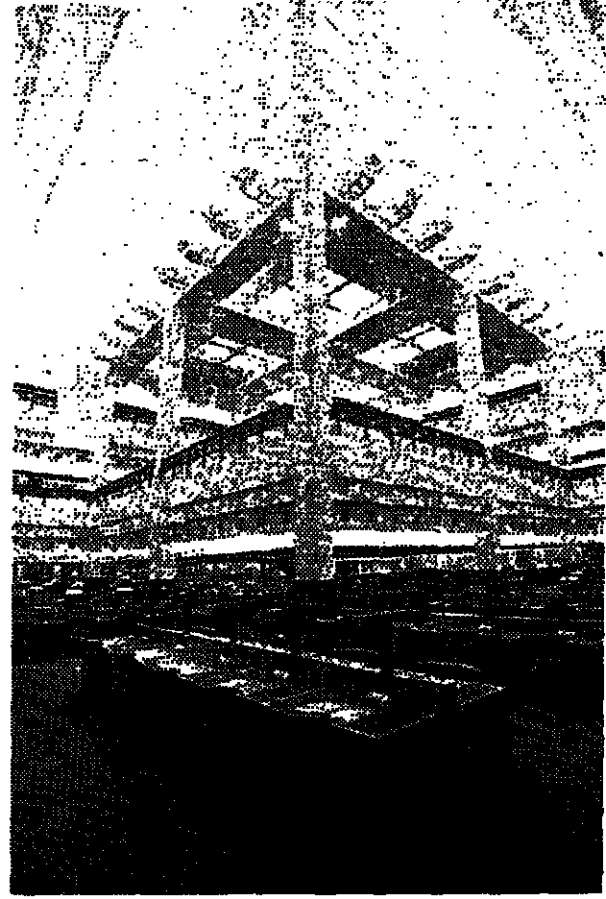
Wylie and the library's thousands of other readers were understandably worried about the new building, which during the 36 years and \$495 million (\$843 million) from conception to completion often seemed on its way to becoming one of the biggest white elephants London had ever seen.

It had been buffeted over the years by changing public tastes, cost overruns, delays and a cacophony of complaints, including Prince Charles's sneering dismissal several years ago when he asked: "How can you tell it is a library? It has no character to suggest it is a great public building."

But the project has undergone an almost complete reversal of fortune in the last couple of years, and it opened to glorious reviews. (Parts of the library opened last fall, others in the spring; the official opening was in the summer.)

Visitors have embraced the much-maligned architecture, although the consensus still seems to be that the red-brick exterior fails to do justice to the building's glorious interior. "There's no real denying that the outside of the building looks like a Tesco," said the writer Alain de Botton, referring to one of Britain's largest supermarket chains.

Still, the architect, Colin St. John Wilson, feels vindicated by the positive response. Prince Charles took a private tour and was very encouraging — although he failed to publicly air his compliments, an omission that most likely irritated Wilson,



The main reading room at the new British Library.

who attributed his decision last year to close his design company to the criticism he had endured over the library.

"I think the building is beginning to speak for itself," Wilson said, caught by chance the other day as he took some friends on a tour. "I never had a doubt. But all the same, it was a bit like someone coming and spitting in your face. What has been most gratifying is the way people come up to me and say they loved the old library and dreaded coming here, and now this is better. The British always do this to architects. Wren was put on half pay and sacked before he finished St. Paul's," he said, speaking of Sir Christopher Wren. "And that also took 36 years."

Most have been impressed by the imagination and attention to detail. "It's a wonderful space, devoted entirely to a library," said the author Lady Antonia Fraser. "I think if a library works as a library, that's the important thing. You don't necessarily have to sit there thinking, 'I'm part of a great tradition.' You would do better to think about your own work."

One quality that the new library has in spades is space. The public spaces are enormous, rising up over several levels with surprising turns and features on each one. Of the four reading rooms, which is divided into 11 discrete "reading areas", the most spectacular is the Humanities Reading Room. It is built on three levels and lighted, as much of the rest of the building is, by daylight filtered through the ceiling.

The artificial lights inside adjust automatically to the amount of daylight coming in. And, as befits a building devoted to the written word, there are modern, well-run exhibition galleries to replace the rather haphazard rooms that used to make up the library in the British Museum.

Visitors can see one of the original Magna Chartas, a Gutenberg Bible and the Diamond Sutra, which dates from 868 and is said to be the oldest surviving printed book. They can hear, using headphones set up around the room, thrilling audio snippets, including James Joyce reading a passage from "Finnegans Wake" and the earliest known tape of a bird call, from 1889.

And in the exhibition "Turning the Pages," they can electronically read, for instance, a complete Leonardo da Vinci notebook, putting their hands on a special computer screen that flips from one page to another, magnifies and explains key passages, and even shows what the passages would look like if they were written the right way around rather than in Leonardo's trademark mirror writing.

In the reading rooms, new technology has arrived with a vengeance. Instead of using the old card catalogues — thousands of entries printed out and pasted, quite quaintly, into thick books — readers order their books from a computer that can tell them if, for instance, the book they want is already checked out. When books arrive, delivered by a mechanized system that sends them from deep within the library on a conveyor belt, readers are alerted by lights flashing at their desks. The whole thing seems a great deal easier, even to traditionalists.

"Everything is on-line and the service is much more efficient," said Patricia Demers, a Canadian who has worked in the library for nearly 20 years, researching English writing in the 16th and 17th centuries. "I still yearn for the old creaks, though, and the old leather-bound printed catalogues. It's just nostalgia, really."

The hardest change to get used to, it seems, is in ambience. The new reading rooms seem colder to some, as if intimacy and weightiness had been lost along with tradition. Some people don't like that the desks seem smaller and that there are no partitions separating readers. And every reader is worried that the library, running at a deficit, might have to start charging for reader's passes.

The writer David Lodge misses the old ways. "I've been convinced that the new facilities in the library and the ability to store books safely are a huge improvement over what the old library could offer," he said. "But I have great nostalgic affection for the old reading room and fond associations and memories of it. It was a superb space, and there was something sort of majestic and appropriate about that great dome, which the more utilitarian design of the modern building — though it's elegant and high-quality — doesn't have."

PEOPLE

Five years after his death, Rudolf Nureyev has been restored to the political good graces of Russia. A deputy prosecutor general, Alexander Zvyagin, announced that the ballet dancer, who was sentenced to seven years in prison in his native Soviet Union when he defected to France in 1961, had been posthumously rehabilitated. Nureyev was a star of the Kirov Ballet in St. Petersburg, then known as Leningrad, when he sought asylum on his first trip abroad. He did not return home for 25 years. He died in Paris at age 54.

The man who discovered and groomed the Backstreet Boys for stardom has a rebellion on his hands. Four of the Boys are suing Louis Pearlman, along with other managers and several companies that oversee the group's business. The suit, pending in U.S. District Court in Orlando, Florida, says that the four want more control and a larger share of the \$200 million they have earned. Pearlman told The Orlando Sentinel that he wants a return on his

\$3 million investment in the group.

Christian Slater is going to Broadway. He will assume the role of Clifford in Warren Leight's acclaimed play "Side Man" for at least three months when it reopens Oct. 20 at the Golden Theater. Slater has appeared in such films as "Broken Arrow" and "Hard

Rain" and in Broadway and off-Broadway productions, including the 1978 "Music Man." He will replace Robert Sella, who created the role in "Side Man." Sella has moved to "Cabarot" to play the Master of Ceremonies.

The actor Christopher Reeve, paralyzed since 1995, has urged lawmakers

to create a national registry of brain and spinal cord injuries. Appearing in West Orange, New Jersey, at the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, where he spent seven months recuperating after his riding accident, Reeve said a registry would allow doctors to match people with injuries to services. It would also give researchers more information about links between brain-injured patients and those with spinal cord injuries, Reeve said.

Larry King will have some news besides politics to chatter about with his talk show guests: fatherhood. The 64-year-old host of CNN's "Larry King Live" and his wife, Shawn Southwick King, are expecting a baby this spring. The Washington Post reported. Earlier this month, King denied that his 38-year-old wife was pregnant, saying: "I wish she were pregnant. I am keeping my fingers crossed. She's a great kid." King and his wife married last September in a Los Angeles hospital room, where he was being treated for heart troubles. The child will be her second and his fourth.

French Magazine Hails 2 as Chef of the Year

Agence France-Press

PARIS — Jacques and Laurent Poircel, owners of the three-star restaurant Jardin des Sens in Montpellier, in the south of France, have been jointly named Chef of the Year by the specialist food magazine Le Chef.

The twins, age 33, opened the restaurant 10 years ago to specialize in Mediterranean cuisine, and it has since become known for its stuffed squid, roast angler fish and tomato pie.

The magazine's Chef of the Year award is arrived at by secret ballot by a panel of chefs who are listed in Michelin Red Guide to French restaurants and hotels.

After winning two stars in the Michelin in 1992, the Poircel brothers were awarded a third this year for their "creative Mediterranean-style cuisine" and "reasonable prices."



SHOWTIME — Members of the rock group Kiss in Los Angeles promoting their new album, "Psycho Circus," and forthcoming world tour.



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